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SELECTIONS

FROM

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS OF GOVERNMENT

FOR THE YEARS

1748 TO 1767 INCLUSIVE

RELATING MAINLY TO

THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF BENGAL;

WITH

A MAP OF CALCUTTA IN 1784.

ROYAL ASIATIC LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE

BY THE REVD. J. LONG,
MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT RECORD COMMISSION.

10353

VOL I.

Published under the sanction of the Government of India.

CALCUTTA:
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING.
1869.

00040353

PREFACE.

These Selections do not treat of Indian history or politics, except where, in certain cases, new light can be thrown or mistakes corrected, as, for instance, in the intercepted correspondence of Suraja Dowla with the French,* or the French intercepted correspondence,† the Patna massacre,‡ the Sipahi Mutiny, § &c., &c.

Numerous works have been published on the History of Bengal, but unfortunately few of the writers have availed themselves of the Government archives, hence various mistakes have been unavoidably committed; but as Mr. J. T. Wheeler, Secretary to the Record Commission, is publishing the Political Annals of Bengal, the object of the present work is to give all that can be *gleaned* from the Records tending to illustrate the social state of Bengal during part of last century among Europeans and Natives, and all that is strictly embraced in the domain of Social Science, specially in relation to the people.

Unfortunately, for a complete description, the scanty nature of the early Records is a great barrier; whiteants, damp, the pilfering of ill-paid dufteries and borrowing without returning, have reduced the number considerably.‖ But it is remarkable in what a good condition both the paper and ink of those remaining is: The great hurricane and inundation of 1737 must have destroyed many Records; but the capture of Calcutta in 1756 swept nearly all away; even the Account Books and Government Bonds in the hurry

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* No. 258. † No. 263. ‡ Nos. 676, 680, 683, 759.
§ Nos. 502, 511, 518, 788, 800. ‖ See on this, No. 188.

of flight were left behind, and the Court of Directors were, in consequence, for years in great difficulties how to balance their accounts.

After the battle of Plassey documents become more numerous, and subsequent to 1772 they are abundant on every subject.

The chief sources of these Selections are—

The semi-weekly Consultations of Government;

Despatches from Bengal to the Court of Directors;

Letters from the Court to Bengal;

The Country Correspondence with the Native powers by the President, translated from the Persian;

Miscellaneous papers.

All these documents are supplied by the Home and Foreign Offices. The Records in the Bengal Office do not commence until after 1770.

It is to be hoped that the *glimpses* occasionally given here into subjects that *books* do not treat of, may afford some raw material to the future historian of Bengal and to those anxious to penetrate the surface of society, both European and Native.

These Records glance at the Armenians, Portuguese, Danes, Dutch and French, with their bitter correspondence and trade rivalries. The internal state of the Burdwan and Hugly Districts has light thrown on it. The Mahrattas and Mugs figure in the early days. Calcutta, the City of Swamps, in its gradual rise and development,—with its luxury and the sumptuary laws to restrain it occupies a prominent place. We are brought as it were face to face with such men as the Sets, Omichand, Nankumar, Reza Khan, Nabakissen, the Rajas of Birbhum, Burdwan and Nuddea, the

Phousdar of Hugly, the Nawabs of Dacca, Murshidabad and Patna. The curious scale of salaries; the regulations regarding servants, coolies and artificers; the Sunderbunds; early mutinies; curious presents to Natives; items of travelling expenses; the coinage; loafers; Russian Officers;* old and curious punishments; the criminal population; the zemindars and ryots; Clevland's labors among the Rajmehal hillmen; the Slave trade; the revenue and taxes; trade and shipping are all more or less glanced at.

The Court of Directors' policy on various questions is given; it is a subject of much historical interest, and calculated to remove erroneous impressions.

The spelling in the original Records has been retained; though at times there are gross mistakes from the ignorance of copyists, as when Howrah is called Harrow, *malik* lands, milky lands, &c. The original documents have been printed without alteration, any remarks of the Editor are in the form of foot notes.

An Index follows this, in which the subjects are arranged alphabetically, with figures, referring not to the page but to the article. This is followed by a *precis* or review of the leading topics treated of in these Records.

CALCUTTA,
24th August 1869.

J. LONG.

* No. 731.

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INTRODUCTION.

BRIEF REVIEW OF SOME OF THE SUBJECTS REFERRED TO IN THE RECORDS.

The Records.

All the Records were not destroyed in the capture of Calcutta, for the Nawab returned some of the later ones; the Court promised to send out copies to supply what was destroyed. They were particularly anxious to know whether the cypher in Mr. Drake's possession was also destroyed. The same cypher was used by the Governors of Madras and Bombay.*

One of the earliest notices of the Records is in a despatch of the Court, mentioning that an original letter from the Chief and others at Patna, and a leaf torn out of the original diary of Mr. Surman's Embassy to the Court of the Great Mogul in 1717, "were picked up in a public necessary house which the writers make use of, and is now in our hands."† Records were often borrowed for copying, and sometimes never returned.

Persian Correspondence.

The Persian correspondence contains flowery language in abundance,§ with some curious documents, which throw light on various subjects in connection with the Native Governments; there is a letter from Shah Alum's mother referring to her son, the "King of Kings."‡

The despatches to the Court of Directors and from the Court contain very often new matter that was long sealed to the public.

New Historical Facts.

There are various points of Indian History that would never have been written had these Records, which admit the reader behind the curtain, been consulted; and there is fresh light thrown on various subjects, such the French being within three hours' march of Suraja Dowla when he was taken by the Fakir‖. The double dealing of Suraju Dowla is seen by his intercepted letters,¶ published here for the first time.

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* Nos. 221, 284. † No. 188. ‡ No. 561.
§ No. 830. ‖ No. 258. ¶ No. 263.

There is in 1763 a despatch from the Court stating that, at the request of the Empress of Russia, a certain number of Russian sea officers should be received on board some of His Majesty's ships of war in different stations, in order to their perfecting themselves in the science and business of navigation, and that six of these officers should be embarked on board any man-of-war for the East Indies; but as the war has ceased and six have arrived, the Secretary of State writes it will be very agreeable to His Majesty to permit the said six Russian officers to make the voyage to India and back on board the Company's ships.*

Details are given of the Patna massacres along with the Nawab's letter, in which he tells Major Adams that if the English do not desist from their aggressions he will cut off the heads of Mr. Ellis and others and send them to him. The Major reminded him that to kill prisoners of war was nowhere to be met but with the beasts of the forest, and that when he took 1,000 of his men prisoners at Oudanulla they were released without injury.† Major Adams gives the details of the massacre, which was done in as cool-blooded a style as that of Khanpur; the English were just after tea and defended themselves with bottles and plates.‡ The only survivor was Dr. Fullarton, whose journal is still extant. The Council ordered a fourteen days' mourning, a public fast, and one lac of rupees reward for arresting Kasim Ali, and Rs. 40,000 for taking Samru.§ The house where the massacre was perpetrated was demolished, and a monument was erected on the site.‖

Mutiny from an early period seems to have been chronic among sipahis. Ram Narayan writes in 1760, "the sepoys for their wages are ready to assassinate me with their creases, a lac of rupees is their due."¶ The fact is, the poor men were not paid regularly by Native chiefs;** but this disaffected spirit spread to those in European employ, and a serious sipahi mutiny was imminent in 1764, of which we have full particulars given.†† This was the more serious as the English officers had become very disaffected, in consequence of the pay and batta question and the Nawab's donation, which the army claimed a share in.

* No. 731. † Nos. 676, 680. ‡ No. 683.
§ No. 683. ‖ No. 759. ¶ Nos. 502, 511.
** No. 518. †† No. 788.

Restitution money.

This was the source of immense trouble and controversy; the money was given to compensate those whose property had been destroyed at the capture of Calcutta. It was distributed, according to their nationality, among English, Portuguese, Natives, Armenians and Greeks, and Commissioners were appointed by each nationality to adjudicate individual claims. Then arose fierce disputes in the dog days of Calcutta: the Armenians, headed by their Bishop, repudiated English Commissioners inspecting their accounts, while the black inhabitants made the severest charges against their own Gentoo Commissioners of taking the lion's share to themselves; and that names were forged and men had to sign English documents who knew not a word of English, and even the mistresses of the Commissioners received a share. See a curious list given of the connections of the Commissioners who shared in the spoil.*

The Natives received twenty lacs of rupees, though the Government stated "as they neglected to secure the outskirts of the town when they were required to do it, or to lend any assistance in the defence of the place, they have forfeited all right and title to any restitution of the damages they have suffered."†

Calcutta.

From 1748 to 1757 Calcutta holds in these Records the prominent place. The authorities were occupied in trade and investments or settling minor arrangements of their city in swamps. For the account of the gradual increase of buildings in Calcutta, and its social development, we refer to the Index—article, CALCUTTA. We now glance at a few of its prominent features.

Calcutta Civilians.

Young civilians went by the name of writers, a very applicable name, as they were mere clerks, and had frequent wiggings from the Court regarding their "loose hand," such as "the books, papers and accounts with regard to method, as well as writing, are faulty to a degree we are quite ashamed of."‡ "Their copying is done in such a hurry, that in general it is unfit to be seen, and many parts are scarcely legible." § "The writing is to be in full plain round hand." "Books generally basely copied, entries erased." "Consultations for three several years past wrote in such a vile manner as not to be legible in many places."

An application was made for a writership on the ground that the party was "regularly bred to writing, accounts, French and other accom-

* Nos. 359 and 360. † No. 231. ‡ No. 177. § No. 124.

plishments."* The Court, in 1755, in sending out young civilians, state they have taken care to be satisfied of their qualifications in writing and accounts.

There was a prejudice against entrusting the copying of confidential documents to black writers, hence the order in 1759 for their dismissal from office, see No. 409.

Sumptuary Laws for Civilians.

The Court passed many sumptuary laws to restrain extravagance in living, well aware that debt leads to dishonor.

Palankins, horses or chaises were at first prohibited to writers going to office, under pain of dismissal from office, but they were afterwards allowed in the hot and rainy seasons.† In 1757 the Court wrote about the luxurious, expensive and idle manner of life which too much prevailed; they disallow all "expenses about cook-rooms, gardens, lately observed on the face of the bills." In Kasimbazar, if the senior and junior servants should not harmonize, the latter are to be allowed from Rs. 20 to 30 monthly for diet money. Lord Clive did something to check the spirit of luxury. He states "that in the train our affairs at Bengal were carried on, the settlement could not have long existed." In 1767 the Court insist on the need of a total change of manners in the settlement; they condemn the luxury and extravagance that prevail refer to their previous orders, to which little attention had been paid, and recommend a set of sumptuary laws.

Official Red Tape.

We find in 1750 a case referred to the Directors involving the sum of Rs. 20, as well as one relating to a stitched counterpane.‡ The Secretary to Government orders a captain to receive mangoes on board.§ The Court write in 1758—"The general books for these many years have been swelled to an enormous size by the multiplicity of useless heads, and innumerable entries are made for the private convenience of individuals."

Office Hours.

Covenanted servants were ordered in 1754 "to attend office from 9 to 12 in the morning, and in the afternoon when occasion be."‖ They were recommended also a more frugal manner of living, indispensible for early hours at office. An early ride at day-break, breakfast at 8, office from 9 to 12, dinner at 2, sleep, tea, ride, visiting and supper filled up the day at that period.

* No. 142. † Nos. 141, 307, 361, 387. ‡ Nos. 62, 63. § No. 126. ‖ Nos. 140, 684.

The Persian Language.

Persian in Bengal was the great language of business in every department, and continued as the language of the Courts even down to 1835.

In 1755 the Court objected to civilians learning Persian in Calcutta, "where the teachers of that tongue are not masters of it themselves." They therefore ordered two Bengal civilians to be sent every year *viâ* Bombay to Bussora to study Persian, and after acquiring it to return to Bengal.*

Morals.

Gambling is censured in 1748 as practised by some of the junior servants;† previous to that the Court had been censuring their idleness.

Syphilitic diseases among the soldiers were punished by those infected having to pay higher fees in hospital, while the Doctor got only half the head money allowed for common diseases.‡

Arrack drinking.

Spirit drinking, in the shape of arrack, was very common; it was considered as a cooling drink in the great heat, when they had no punkahs and all the doors were thrown open.

It was found very injurious to seamen in 1754. A captain applied to come from Kedgri to Calcutta in August, "as many of his people was down in fluxes, and as at Calpi sailors had the opportunity of intoxicating and killing themselves with *pariah arrack*, generally fatal to the health".§ Clive had to move his troops a mile to the northward of Chandernagur in 1757 "to put a stop to the disorders among the military by the too easy procurance of arrack in the town." (No. 229.) In 1758, on its being found "that the military were continually intoxicated with liquor on the setting up of public shops for the sale of arrack;" a kind of Maine law was enacted, and a Mr. Hurdle, who purchased for Rs. 400 per annum, at outcry, the farming of arrack, had his license suppressed; he was forbid to distil or sell any more or permit others to do it;‖ he was however in compensation subsequently appointed to the office of scavenger of Calcutta.¶ This *quasi* Maine law does not seem to have been long acted on, for an Armenian was tried in April 1759 for importing into town more arrack than he was permitted to bring.** In 1760, "in consequence of the present unlimited privilege of vending of arrack by

* No. 228. † No. 59. ‡ No. 867. § No. 133. ‖ No. 381. ¶ No. 524. ** No. 414.

the inhabitants of this place, with its consequence to the army and shipping of causing riot and disturbance, the farming was limited to one party."*

Ecclesiastical Matters.

The first notice we have is an application to the Court for Rs. 8,000 in order to rebuild the church steeple, which was thrown down in the great storm of 1737.† In 1751 the minutes of Council are confined for an entire meeting to the subject of an organ presented to the church by Mr. Eyre, which was entirely eaten up by white ants with the exception of the pipes and glass doors.‡ Mr. Mapletoft, Chaplain, applies for cloth and stationery for the charity boys.§ In 1754 an order came from the Court for the servants, covenanted and military officers, regarding due attendance at church.‖ In 1758 the Court recommended that an effort be made to convert the theatre into a church.¶ In 1759 the chaplains are to get a consolidated allowance of £230 sterling, which comprises the following items, *viz.*, salary £50, gratuity £50, house rent £30 in lieu of diet, servants' wages £100.** In 1760 the Portuguese Church, which had been used by the English since 1757, was given over to them, being damp and unwholesome, and a room was erected over the eastern gate of the fort at a cost of Rs. 2,500 to serve as a church.†† In 1761 the church was put in mourning for the king's decease, at a cost of Rs. 253. In 1764, a return is ordered to the original establishment of having no more at any time than two chaplains. The chaplains and church-wardens petitioned that there was not half room for the inhabitants in the church room erected over the fort gate-way.‡‡ In 1766, the chaplains were admitted, along with field officers and head surgeons, to a share in the trade in betel-nut, salt and tobacco.§§

Medical Matters.

Doctors were few, badly paid, and in various cases badly educated, and yet their labor must have been heavy in such a Golgotha as Calcutta was then.

The two eminent ones were Holwell, who, like Hamilton, distinguished himself in civil business, and Dr. Fullarton, the only survivor of the Patna massacre, of which he has published an interesting journal. Great complaints were made of the negligence and peculation of the doctors in the hospital; they themselves supplied everything and got head money. An order was in consequence passed that Members of

* No. 469. † No. 58. ‡ No. 68. § No. 129. ‖ No. 140.
¶ No. 296. ** No. 430. †† No. 454. ‡‡ No. 766. §§ No. 836.

Council should visit the hospital in rotation.* In 1764 the Court suggested that, with respect to the inhabitants of Calcutta, they most certainly ought to reward the physicians who attend at their own expense.† Medicines were scarce and dear; they had not then known the value of indigenous drugs. Even castor oil was often imported from England.

The hospital stood in the old fort, designed chiefly for the military; but in 1766, as the burial ground in its neighbourhood was found very detrimental to the health of the inhabitants, (it contained 14,000 corpses in all stages of decay,) it was resolved to have both a new hospital and new burial ground. It was proposed at first to have the hospital on Sumatra Island, opposite Surman's garden, but it was subsequently fixed near Alipur.

Free Merchant.

The free merchant was an eye-sore, as he interfered with the profits of the Company's servants in trade. One of them, in 1753, applies for a pass on the ground that "without it he will be reduced to the condition of a foreigner or to the meanest black fellow."‡

A free merchant made a factor sounds strange in these days when India is no longer the monopoly of Scotchmen, but a factor was a member of the Civil Service. A Mr. Beaumont was made such for the losses he sustained in the troubles "and his good example as a merchant."§

In 1758, a very valuable paper on the state of trade in the Persian Gulf was presented signed by 18 free merchants; the Bombay and Calcutta shipping are compared, and the causes of the decay of trade at Surat and along the Persian Gulf are given.‖

We have also a list of the exports to India in 1762, a curious contrast with the enlarged trade in modern times.¶

In 1763, Governor Vansittart published a minute pointing out the evils that arise from allowing Europeans to settle for trade in the interior.††

Quarrels.

The limited community of Calcutta, having little to distract their attention, had ample leisure to indulge a quarrelsome disposition, and little restraint was placed upon language even in high quarters; thus Mr. Grey, a Civilian dismissed from Malda, writes to Lord Clive officially: "Your language

* Nos. 95, 300, 449. † No. 748. ‡ No. 106. § No. 301.
‖ No. 405. ¶ No. 613. ** No. 183. †† No. 630

is more calculated for the meridian of Billingsgate or Grub Street than for the Records of the Hon'ble Board." We have the memorable scene between Mr. Batson and Warren Hastings, when the latter received a slap in the face.*

Passengers on Ship Board.

On passengers arriving in Calcutta, it was a standing rule that they called on the Members of Council, who invariably asked them the question how they were treated on board; if any complained the captain was summoned, and if negligent received a severe wigging. No mention is made, however, of quarrels common in those days among the passengers themselves for precedence at table. There are on record, however, complaints connected with disputes for accommodation; in the latter case, some Company's servants remonstrated they had not the preference of the table over free merchants.†

Prizes of 200 and 100 guineas were offered by the Court in 1756 for quick passages round the Cape, with strict injunctions for the commanders of ships not to loiter or misspend their time.‡

It was a curious document that passengers had to sign "that they will not attempt to recover any pay or gratuity for any service they may be called on to give the ship in time of need during the whole passage."§

Seamen.

No vessel being allowed to come above Diamond Harbour without special permission, there were but few sailors in Calcutta, and they frequented taverns in the Lal Bazar, the Wapping of Calcutta.

The sailors were of value at the time of the siege of Calcutta. The sailors of the *Marlborough* got Rs. 50 each per head for their conduct at Dum-Dum.

Licenses.

Licenses were strictly enforced, and the captain was not allowed to receive a passenger on board without a license from the Company.

A Miss Campbell in 1754 came out to Bengal; as she was taken on board in London as a passenger for Madeira, the Court wrote they were apprehensive she should come to India, and they order her to be sent back.‖

* No. 658. † No. 679. ‡ No. 983. § No. 905. ‖ No. 181.

Servants.

A Mr. Johnson struck his servant, was fined for so doing, and not appearing in Court he was thrown into jail, and "after rotting in a loathsome jail three months," he presented a petition that he was unable to pay the fine or provide the common necessaries of life.*

In 1766 it was resolved by Government to have an office established for keeping a register of all servants of every denomination in Calcutta.†

Servants were numerous, (see Sir P. Francis' Memoirs) but they were cheap, as may be seen by the rates of wages assigned them.‡

In 1759, in consequence of the complaint "of the insolence and exorbitant wages exacted by the menial servants in the settlement," it was resolved to fix the monthly rates, any servant refusing to comply with this to have his possessions in land sequestered or to be imprisoned. Any servant ill-treated to be released from his service. According to this scale a khansamah, whether Christian, Moor or Gentoo, had Rs. 5 a month, a bearer Rs. 2½, washerman to a single person Rs. 1½, shaving barber or wig barber Rs. 1½, the house tailor Rs. 3, the latter was to attend at seven or eight in the morning on pain of corporal punishment. This rate was announced by beat of drum (tom-tom) and was affixed in public places in English, Persian, Bengali, Nagri.§ Thirty years subsequent it was three times as high.

In 1760 the charges of tailors, washermen and barbers were limited as respects to menial servants.‖

Salaries.

The salaries appear very small. We find, in 1764, Warren Hastings, as Member of Council, had not more than Rs. 300 per month, and yet lived well in a luxurious state of society, but money was then five times the value of what it is now, and Members of Government, up to the President himself, were allowed to trade; even chaplains and doctors had a share in the salt trade (No. 836).

In 1748 the Dacca civilians having their trade stopped, complain they have scarcely common subsistence.¶ The houses in the fort having been destroyed in 1756, a Member of Council was allowed for diet and lodging Rs. 100 a month, a writer Rs. 40. In 1757 the Directors, as a special mark of favor and attention, raised the salaries of writers to Rs. 400 per annum, which included "diet money and all allowances whatever."**

* No. 644. † No. 857. ‡ No. 418. § No. 418. ‖ No. 452. ¶ No. 29.
** Nos. 308, 311, 388.

When, in 1766, the Company had cut off the profits of trade Clive wrote: "your servants are reduced to a bare monthly allowance which must be found too scanty, I fear, to secure them against the necessity of incurring debts; these have had effect on their morals by entangling them in difficulties from which every means will be tried to extricate them."

When the Government took on them the dewani they found the Native officers had small salaries, but great perquisites, obliging them to pursue corrupt measures equally injurious to the country and to the Company, and to put a stop to this excess, which must be grievous to the people, "they assigned 12 lacs annually to support Reza Khan, Raj Dhullub and Sitab Roy: their perquisites will be annexed to revenue. This higher salary is necessary for supporting them in that show and pride requisite to keep up the authority and influence of their respective offices; they will be confirmed steadily in our interests, since they cannot hope from the most successful ambition there will arise to their great advantage by any change or revolution of affairs; their integrity will be confirmed by the ties of gratitude and interest."

Travelling Expenses.

The travelling expenses of the Governors and private individuals give us often a curious insight into the rates of charges and of prices.

Mr. McGuire for his journey from Calcutta to Patna in 1760 Rs. 800.

Mr. Vansittart in his visit to the Nawab puts among his items, Nawab's servants Rs. 2,442, munshi's pay 3 months, batta and palankins Rs. 658, for boatmen 3 months, Rs. 855, shoemakers Rs. 119, sailmakers Rs. 162, 400 coolies; the whole charges for three months amounted to Rs. 28,000.*

Lord Clive, having been severely attacked for his accumulation of money, gives in defence a minute statement of his expenditure in India and his voyage out in 1765;† the latter cost a lac of rupees.

Houses.

In the early days of Calcutta, houses were often of one story and damp; such were those appropriated to the Writers in the fort.‡ The Court, 1757, state the apartments for the junior servants having generally been on the ground floor and in damp situations are fatal to many of them.§

* No. 639. † No. 942. ‡ No. 185. § No. 205.

In 1758 houses with thatched roofs were built for the writers and officers of Colonel Coote in the old fort.*

The value of the Calcutta Government buildings, after the recapture in January 1757, appears very low; the old fort, its interior buildings was estimated at Rs. 1,20,000; the jail, at Rs. 7,000.†

In consequence of a great fire at Patna, which burnt down nearly the whole city and all the Company's buildings which were thatched, it was resolved to make the buildings for the future of brick.‡

In 1767 it is stated "the straw huts everywhere dispersed through the whole town of Calcutta is a grievance and an innovation of very late date."§

Garden Houses.

Garden houses and trips to the country, though coming under the censure of the Court in its sumptuary laws, were great favorites in Calcutta. Lord Clive had a house at Dum-Dum, Warren Hastings one in the then jungles of Alipur, with a place for sea-bathing at Birkul below Kedgri. His example was followed by many who were anxious to get away from the pestiferous ditch, hence perhaps the origin of the order that no inhabitant of Calcutta was to go 10 miles outside Calcutta without the Governor's permission.‖

In 1761 many old buildings were pulled down on the esplanade, and Rs. 5,727 were given as compensation for them; these must have interfered with the ventilation.

What a relief it must have been to those pent up within the Mahratta ditch to enjoy the luxury of garden houses. The great place for promenading was the tank or park, since called Tank Square, and now Dalhousie Square; it was planted with orange trees; the walks and tank were generally kept in good order by the authrities.

There were to the north of Calcutta Perron's gardens, near Bag Bazar, used by covenanted servants; this was sold in 1752; south were Surman's gardens near what is now Coolie Bazar or Hastings.¶

In 1762 Mr. Parker got a license to make a garden house he had purchased as a resort for the gentry of Calcutta a house of entertainment; it was granted, but on condition of its not being open in the morning.**

* No. 399. † No. 423. ‡ No. 910. § No. 945. ‖ No. 845. ¶ No. 98.
** No. 579.

The same year a garden house was purchased for the President at the cost of Rs. 10,000 "for his refreshment when the multiplicity of business will permit him to leave town;"* the Court thought his allowances ought to cover all expenses.

Sanitation of Calcutta.

The mortality of Calcutta must have been fearful at an early period, when, as Hamilton the traveller stated, 1,200 Europeans died in one year; when there was an hospital in Calcutta, "which many entered but few came out of to give an account of their treatment;" when the 15th October was a feast day, those surviving the sickly rainy season meeting to celebrate their deliverance.

In the Persian documents Calcutta was called "the paradise of nations;" still the Moghuls made it a Siberia, and banished criminals to its pestiferous swamps.

The work of sanitation was simple when Calcutta had as a boundary the jail at Lal Bazar, leading to what was then called the continent, *i. e.*, the land beyond the Mahratta ditch; when there was no Chowringhi, and its plain was a tiger jungle, hence we can account for the sum of a few rupees in 1749 granted "to make the drains sweet and wholesome."† In 1751 the jungle near Calcutta was ordered to be burnt down, to be used for burning bricks.‡

Complaints were made in 1755 that owing to the washing of people and horses in the great tank, it is so offensive at times there is no passing to the southward or northward.¶ In 1762 an order was issued to clear the town of jungle.**

In 1762 the surveyor proposed a plan of facing the drains and ditches of the new roads with brick, but it was rejected as too expensive, and they were ordered to be sloped instead.

Major Carnac complains bitterly to Lord Clive of the unhealthiness of Calcutta for the troops, and we find an order passed that no troops were to be landed in Calcutta.§ Lord Clive himself, in August 1757, could not bring the forces into Calcutta on account of it's unhealthiness.‖

For change of air it was either down the river in a pilot brig, to Birkul bunglows, or up to Chandernagore, Sukh Sagur. We find, in 1763,

* No. 593. † No. 52. ‡ No. 480. § No. 935, 968. ‖ No. 153. ¶ No. 580.

an official applying to go to Kasimbazar for the recovery of his health; now-a-days Kasimbazar is surrounded by a pestiferous malarious jungle; ruin and fever stalk about.

The ditch to the east of the fort, which contained the bodies of those who perished in the Black Hole, was filled up in 1766, a great boon to health, for, like the Maharatta ditch, it had become a receptacle of all the filth and garbage of Calcutta.*

Mayor's Court.

The Mayor's Court existed since 1724, and its records throw much light on the social condition of Calcutta; they are deposited with the High Court, but unfortunately all records previous to 1749 have been lost.

The members of the Mayor's Court were elected by Government from among Government servants, hence they generally concurred with the Government views, though in 1767, we have the case of a Mr. Atkinson, who got permission from Government to go from Fort Marlborough to China, instead of which he came to Bengal and was employed by the Mayor's Court, which refused to give him up in compliance with the Government demand.

Sundry disputes arose about the jurisdiction over Natives; but it was decided in 1755 that the Court was not to be cognizant of disputes between Natives.†

Their system has much of justice's justice, off-hand and according to the dictates of equity more than law: in those days there were few lawyers(*a*) in Calcutta, even down to 1767, when Lord Clive remarked in a despatch, "Calcutta is the place where the profession of the law is exercised by men who seem to derive all their knowledge by inheritance, or to possess it by intuition, without previous study or application." Arbitration was greatly resorted to, to the disgust of men who grudged the time given to it from their professional pursuits.

Lawyers in those days were made to feel that they lived by sufferance as in the case of Mr. Dumbledon and others.

There was a Court of Cutcherry also, of which Mr. Bolts, the Secretary, gives a humorous account regarding the difficulty of securing the attendance of members when summoned; one man would be at the gardon, another at Baraset, another at Gayretty. The Natives did not like the trouble of acting as arbitrators in it.

* No. 869. † No. 179.

(*a.*) There were attornies, for an order was issued in 1753 that refractory attornies were to be deported to England Nos. 123: 213.

The mayor and aldermen wore the official dress, the aldermen had red taffety for gowns; the Mayor sat on a velvet cushion.*

Among the items of the Mayor's Court expenses in 1755 are—†

Chubdars, 9 peons, monthly	35	0	0
Assistants for the records	33	8	0
Nine justices	10	0	0
30 seers wax candles for 15 sittings	45	0	0
Stationery, 6 months	200	0	0
Tom-tom	1	1	3

New Fort.

The new fort occupies a prominent place in the Records in two respects; its building was watched with intense interest by the authorities, as Calcutta was utterly defenceless until it was ready. It is very singular that the French never sent an expedition against Bengal, had they done so between 1758 and 1767, nothing could have saved Calcutta; but in proportion to the urgency of having the fort completed was the extraordinary delay arising from the consummate villany and fraud connected with carrying on the works, and which drove Clive almost to despair. Captain Brohier, one of the first engineers, escaped from Calcutta to Ceylon, having embezzled a large amount of the Company's money.‡ The Company were cheated in bricks, in wood, in coolies, in every possible way.§

Roads.

Roads were few in old Calcutta, consequently there were few carriages; palankins, and horses were thought a great luxury. The river answered the purposes of trade as well as of exercise in boats with bands of music in attendance.

The Baraset road seems one of the oldest; it was on the line of communication with Murshidabad, and was the great resort of pleasure-takers; it must have been kutcha, for the expense of repairing the Baraset and Dum-Dum roads in 1752 was Rs. 20.

River Survey.

The important question, whether the delta of the Hughly is silting up like all other deltas in the world, and consequently whether the river itself is not deteriorating, has little light thrown on it. A survey was made annually in company occasionally with French and Dutch pilots. These surveys are given, beginning with 1748; in that of 1748, mention is made of the James and Mary, of Fulta Sand and of Rogue's River,¶ but the

* No. 113. † No. 148. ‡ No. 464. § Nos. 460, 464, 477, 545. ‖ No. 22

surveys are written in an unscientific manner, no tide levels were taken, nor any data given by which to deduce any conclusions as to the decrease of the mean depth or the extension of the Sandheads.*(a)*

In 1760 Channel Creek was recommended as a passage for vessels in the S. W. Monsoon, having 2 fathoms at low water. Mr. Plaisted made a survey of this and the rivers to the east of it.

In 1760, in consequence of the river getting worse, vessels at Kedgeri were not to draw more than 16 feet.*

In 1767 there is a pilot's survey of the river; at Fulta the eastern channel was filled up.

The pilots now make sad havoc with the Native names of places, calling Kantaberie, Canterbury; but there are names they gave last century which are not now at present to be found, such as Fisherman's Creek, Dean's Town, Rogue's River, Hog's River, Mingo Bibby's Creek, Hangman's Point.

Coinage and Cowries.

The original payments were made in cowries, which must have been a very cumbrous way of exchange. In 1753 a Captain Cook refused to take cowries on board, though the Court had directed that ten tons of cowries were to be laden on each of the ships homeward bound; he alleged the loss by pilferage and the loss of weight when they were cleared.† In 1758 the heads of offices were to indent on the Buxey for the cowries they may want. We find that as late as 1767 the revenues of Sylhet were paid in cowries.

One of the earliest efforts to remedy this deficiency in coin was to have a Mint in Calcutta, though the Nawab and Jagat Set opposed on account of the large profits they drew from their Mint at Murshidabad.‡

Twenty-four Pergunnahs.

The best early account we have of the 24-Pergunnahs is Mr. Frankland's in 1758, who spent from January to June on the enquiry; he found that out of 816,446 bigas the zemindars collected their rents on only 454,804, the rest being either barren and untenanted, or assigned over to idols, and the revenue amounted to five lacs per annum, which he hopes will rise to 10 Lacs of rupis a year.§

A proposal come from 12 leading Natives of Calcutta to farm the 24-Pergunnahs in 1759. Holwell wrote an able Minute on the subject.‖

(*a*) The river made encroachments at times in Calcutta; in 1748 the road to Sutanutty market was carried away by the river.

* Nos. 535, 755. † No. 105. ‡ No. 125. § No. 378. ‖ No. 441.

On this the ancient farmers presented a petition stating "that they had cleared the same from jungles, removing the savage inhabitants of the woods, in order to people the land with human species, but a check was put on the industry of our ancestors by the unjust and exorbitant taxes put upon the lands by the zemindars."* In No. 443 a list is given of the rate at which certain pergunnahs were farmed out and who were the purchasers. Holwell's name is down for two pergunnahs; this was in opposition to the Court's recent orders against Europeans holding lands,—no wonder Holwell advocated large farms. In 1767 several principal inhabitants of Calcutta again offered to farm the 24-Pergunnahs for 10½ lacs, but the offer was declined.†

Sunderbunds.

On the Sunderbunds, that district charged with malaria so destructive to Calcutta, a legacy from the Mugs, Portuguese and Cyclones, little light is thrown, except in one important letter of Lord Clive in 1758, in which he states: "The pergunnah of Coney Turies formerly yielded, we are informed on good authority, a revenue of 40 lacs of rupees, but the greatest part is now over-grown with jungle, the rent of it amounts to no more than Rs. 2,925."‡ He states the extent is unknown but it reaches as far as Gunga Sagur to the south. At that time Government wanted to settle weavers to the south of Calcutta, but they could not, owing to the lowness of the ground and the saltness of the air.

This statement of Clive's, though it may be exaggerated, implies the country must have been under cultivation in a previous century, when the Sunderbund jungle did not extend to Chowringi plain as it did previous to the battle of Plassey. Tigers and robbers took the place of the ryots.

In 1748 we find the city of Dacca was in the utmost confusion in consequence of the Durbar receiving advice of a large force of Mahrattas coming to Dacca by way of the Sunderbunds.§ In 1766 it was reported from Lukipur in the south-east of the Sunderbunds, the dakaits are become so very terrible that boats cannot pass the river near Lukipur without a guard, nor are they less insolent by land, collecting in bodies about the aurungs (Factories) and cutting the cloth from the loom. Complaints to the Native Officers are no use, as the robbers are protected by them. The Nawab

* No. 441. † No. 912. ‡ No. 368. § No. 3.

Reza Khan was ordered to collect armed boats and Sipahis to root out these dakaits.

Captain Tolley is mentioned in 1766 as busy about a Factory on the borders of the Sunderbunds, or passage through the woods.

Mugs.

The Mugs, an aboriginal tribe from the neighbourhood of Chittagong and Burma, were a subject of continual anxiety to the authorities of Calcutta. Early last century those Mugs were to Calcutta what the sea kings were to Europe, they leagued with enterprising Portuguese from Chittagong, swarmed in the river, and after desolating the Sunderbunds, extended their depredations even to the neighbourhood of Calcutta. We find that as late as 1760, the Government ordered a boom to be thrown across the river below Calcutta to prevent the Mug ships coming up.

How graphically the old record describes the impression made by the Mugs. "*As the time of the Mugs draws nigh*, the chief of Jugdea requests the pinnace to be with them and a chest of good powder."*

In 1748, the Mugs and robbers did great mischief about Dacca.†

In 1758, Mugs were making depredations near Luckipur; the Government proposed acquiring Chittagong, and they declare, the Nawab would be willing, provided "they paid him the present revenue and kept some armed vessels to cruize and prevent the inroads of the Mugs who annually infest these parts in boats, and do a great deal of damage by pillaging the villages and towns, and plundering all boats and vessels that fall in their way.‡

Portuguese.

When these records begin, in 1748, the political power and commercial activity of the Portuguese had yielded the palm to Dutch and English enterprise. The Portuguese had ceased to be conquerors; many of them became pirates, others traders, others topasses or gunners, and others were famous as cooks, some were good fiddlers. Coming out as adventurers in 1634 in the service of the King of Gour, they made no permanent settlement in the country, one place alone excepted Bandel, near Hugly. But the name of the Portuguese is indelibly associated with two great crimes, piracy and the slave trade; nearly three centuries ago they entered the mouth of the Mutla, passed up in front of what is now Port Canning, and

* No. 21; 101. † No. 276. ‡ No. 376.

established themselves at Tarda on the Vidiadurry, near the Calcutta Salt Water Lake; they made Tarda for more than a century, a flourishing emporium of trade, long before Job Charnock fixed the site of his capital on the pestiferous shores of the Hugly. Not satisfied with the flourishing trade they carried on there and at Satgan near Hugly town, they engaged extensively in a slave trade in the Sunderbunds; their scouts were then to be seen along the banks of some of the beautiful Sunderbund rivers, hauling away men and boys from their homes and exporting them to the Slave Mart at Goa, or retaining them in Bengal to swell that non-descript class of persons called Portuguese; they leagued themselves with the Mugs in these forays of man hunting, and hence one cause of the depopulation of the Sunderbunds. Cyclones and a depression of land may have contributed to it also, but the main cause we believe to have been the Portuguese and Mugs. We find in 1748 a river near Diamond Harbour called Rogue's River, probably because it was resorted to by Portuguese pirates and Mugs. In Major Rennel's Map, an extensive tract of the Sunderbunds south-east of Calna is marked off as "land depopulated by the Mugs."

These records refer to the Portuguese on the following occasions:—

Holwell defines Feringy "as the black mustee Portuguese Christians, residing in the settlement as a people distinct from the natural and proper subjects of Portugal, sprung originally from Hindus or Mussulmans, who by the law of nations cannot by their conversion to christianity, be exempted from their allegiance to the Mogul, their natural Lord."* The English having admitted a prodigious number of Portuguese women for security into the Fort, "finding the very little or no service that race of people are of to the settlement, added to the prospect of a war with France, in which case we think they would refuse to take up arms against an enemy of their own religion, induced us to interdict the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion and to forbid the residence of their priests in our bounds."† The Court of Directors remonstrated against this rare instance of intolerance.‡

A Portuguese writer is required§ for the accounts; there were few Bengali ones then.

* No. 154. † No. 226. ‡ No. 292. § No. 549.

In 1763 the Government granted Kiernander, the first Protestant Missionary to Bengal the use of the house which had been the Collector's Office for holding a service in Portuguese for converts from Romanism ;* at that time a numerous class in Calcutta understood Portuguese, which was the *lingua franca* among servants.

The Armenians.

The Armenians were early settlers in Calcutta, and engaged extensively in trade; as Asiatics they mixed more freely with the Natives than the English did, penetrated the interior of the country, and held high offices at the Native Courts.

The records give the detail of a long and bitter quarrel they had with the Calcutta authorities regarding the 15 lacs of restitution money which was granted them after the capture of Calcutta.†

In 1748 there were Armenian ships,‡ and the Government threatened in consequence of a quarrel to prevent their passing the Fort; the English had seized two Armenian ships in the Persian Gulf; the Armenians appealed to the Nawab, who stopped the English trade in consequence, and wrote them a menacing letter, charging them with piracy; the Nawab aimed at making a profit out of both parties; the Armenian Merchants in Calcutta appealed to the President and Council; the latter required them to sign a document to the Nawab that they were satisfied; they of course refused, on which they were threatened with expulsion from Calcutta in two months, it ended in the English having to pay through the Sets to the Nawab Rs. 1,20,000; the fact was, the Armenian ships were taken by King's ships, over which the President had no control, though he had to pay for damages.

Had they been expelled from Calcutta, the French would have been glad to receive them, but the English would have lost the duty of five per cent. on the great importations made by them of raw silk, and of the goods on the Coast of Coromandel. The Court of Directors were always favorable to the Armenians, and uninfluenced by local prejudices, wrote out "we expect many advantages flow from the residence of Armenians, which we would have you encourage as much as possible."§

In 1759 a fierce quarrel arose in consequence of one Padri Dionysius, "an extract of an Armenian," having spread false reports of Armenian

* No. 688.

† Nos. 343½, 348, 349, 421.

‡ Nos. 25, 40.

§ No. 293.

married ladies "unsufferable to bear." 36 Armenian inhabitants presented a petition to Government on the subject, the Padri was ordered to Bencoolen for his ill behaviour, as well in this as in other instances, and meanwhile, he was imprisoned in the fort for three months.*

In 1759 the Armenians, highly indignant that "the selling of Christian people was allowed or practised by the English nation," petitioned the Government regarding an Armenian woman that was brought as a slave from the Persian Gulf.†

In 1760 the Nawab Kasim Ali Khan writes—"it is contrary to all custom to give a zemindary to an Armenian."‡ Why? unless for the same reason that in 1765 the jealousies of trade caused the Government to forbid the Armenians residing at Aurungs.

Coja Petruse was an Armenian merchant of long standing in Calcutta, and, like other Armenians, had great influence at the Nawab's Court; he was accused by some members of being a spy, but the Government acquitted him,§ and he gave a clear defence of himself.‖

Had not Coja Gregory, the Armenian Commandant of Mir Jaffir's Artillery at Patna, been basely murdered in common with Jagat Set and others for their attachment to the English, the Patna massacre would probably never have taken place, as Coja's influence with the Nawab would have prevented it.

Danes.

The neighbours of the English in Calcutta were the Danes, Dutch and French. The Danes, nestled in the salubrious shades of Fredericknagore or Serampore, seem to have driven a thriving trade by their shipping; they do not appear to have penetrated far inland, and their name occurs chiefly in connection with some row when a British subject strayed into their territory and committed some trifling outrages, which to them at once rose to the importance of a national affront.¶

Their wishing to trade with the French at the time the English were at war with the latter, was a frequent source of misunderstanding; the doctrine of neutral bottoms was not then acted on.**

The Danes, in 1760 applied to the English for cannon and ammunition, as they expected an attack of the Mahrattas on Serampore.††

* No. 403. † No. 424. ‡ No. 517. § No. 647.
‖ No. 687. ¶ Nos. 633, 736. ** Nos. 364, 404. †† No. 445.

The Dutch.

The Dutch appear in these Records the same steady defendants of their rights, as the men who in the swamps of Holland had braved the whole power of Spain. They made a bold stroke for ascendancy in Bengal in 1759, and might have got it but for the promptness of Colonel Forde. The Records teem with long correspondence and complaints regarding their due share in the Saltpetre Trade, and the interference of English Gomasaths with their purchasing goods. Notwithstanding their bickerings, they were far more cordial with the English than with the French.

The French.

The feelings of international bitterness, so strong in Europe last century were transferred to India; hence French and English regarded each other as national enemies; they fought for the expulsion of each other, "two swords cannot be in one sheath."

Even in peace this feeling prevailed, in 1750 blacks in Calcutta were prohibited dealing with the French.*

There is a very interesting discussion in the minutes of Council respecting the French proposal that there should be neutrality between the two nations in Bengal, though they were at war in Europe. The Council was favorable to it and so was Clive; but Admiral Watson would not consent, on the ground that it must be ratified at Pondicherry, which involved two months' delay, it might not be ratified and then the English fleet would be away; it might not be binding on the Commanders of French ships, and no reliance could be put on the Nawab's guarantee. Watson had twice refused to concur. Clive said if he refuses the third time, let him attack Chandernagore by water immediately, as I will do by land. It was agreed on, and Chandernagore, called by Clive "the granary of the islands," fell with all the plans proposed for it by Dupleix.†

The object of neutrality was a noble one, and is being carried out in the present century; but the minds of both parties were so exasperated that treaties would have had little effect. In the French East India Company's instructions to Count Lally is the following: "All English fortifications to be destroyed, all other English places to be demolished, all English soldiers, sailors, writers to be sent to the Island of Bourbon;" the king of France concurred in this, and directed that no Englishman shall be left in any place that shall be taken.‡

* No. 64. † No. 225; 230. ‡ No. 566.

Captain Brohier in 1758, by order of Government, on hearing of the conduct of Count Lally in the Madras Presidency, set about and entirely completed the demolition of the wharfs, magazines and houses, both public and private, at Chandernagore, leaving nothing except the houses of a few indigent widows.*

The inhabitants of Chandernagore petitioned against the barbarous proposal to destroy houses which sheltered the English in 1756; the Council seemed inclined to yield, but Clive remonstrated, stating "the demolition was a laudable national revenge for the ungenerous treatment we have received from the French; the rules of war in all civilized nations authorize reprisals."†

An Italian Capuchin Missionary presented a most pathetic remonstrance against the proposed destruction of his church and house, but it was of no avail.‡

Calcutta in January 1763 was in a panic, as the French Fleet was in Balasore roads, and had captured several English vessels. It was found they could not remove the ships from Kedgeri to Calcutta, as they could not easily return on account of the adverse winds and very dangerous channels.

The Germans.

The Germans about 1751 tried to make a commercial settlement in Bengal, but they met with determined hostility from the English. The President ordered the pilots "on no account to take charge of or show the way to any Allaman, no doubt but the French and Dutch would do the same. God forbid that they should come, but should this be the case, I am in hopes they will be either sunk, broke or destroyed."§ The Court sent out orders for no pilots to attend ships coming from Embden.‖ In 1757 a despatch from the Court arrived, stating they were to have no commercial dealings of any kind with German ships.¶

Sets.

Among the leading Natives, the Sets stand out as the great millionaires of their day, for the origin of their family see Nos. 1024, 1025. Jagat Set was probably worth eight millions sterling, and, as the Rothschild of his time, held a high place in the Council of Murshidabad. They first come to our notice in a curious way in 1748, *viz.*, refusing to do business with

* No. 396. † No. 416. ‡ No. 417.
§ No. 138. ‖ No. 138. ¶ No. 209.

Bengalis, as being men of a different caste.* In 1759 Clive entertained Jaggat Set for four days at a cost of Rs. 17,374; the items are given;† among the presents are 1 otto box set with diamonds Rs. 3,222, 8 tweezer cases at Rs. 55 each. Rs. 500 was given to servants.

Attached to the English they paid the penalty for it in being flung like dogs from the bastions of Monghyr fort into the raging Ganges by Kasim Ali.

The sons tried to rally in business, and we find in 1764 the English Government borrowing 5 lacs from them.

In 1768 the Court of Directors, directing the debts due by the Government to the Sets to be paid, remarks "that family, who have suffered so much in our cause, are particularly entitled to our protection."

(The descendants are now pensioners on the bounty of the English.)

Reza Khan.

Muhammad Reza Khan stands out as an able Mussulman administrator at Dacca. Mr. Sykes wrote of him in 1767: "he is very useful to Government in Dacca, in reducing to order and retrenching the immoderate expenses of the zemindars and other officers of the Government. The Government will have to prevent the inhabitants of Dacca suffering any violence or oppression of the zemindars." The Court of Directors in 1768 expressed their approbation of Reza Khan's services, and allowed him a salary of 9 lacs annually, besides 2 lacs to Roydullub, and 1 to Shitab Roy.

Natives of Calcutta—Manik Chund.

Manik Chund was a leading man; when Calcutta was taken his property was uninjured though he claimed restitution money; he was the Governor of Calcutta and headed the Troops in the attack on Budge Budge, until a ball through his turban sent him flying back full speed to Calcutta, where he anticipated the speedy return of the English, and had sent all his plunder out of the way.

He died at Dacca in 1762; his last request was that the English would protect his family and effects.‡

Omichund.

Omichund first appears in 1748 as a man of such weight that the Mahratta General on his march to Patna corresponded with him.§ He had some influence with Suraju Dowla when Calcutta was taken.‖ He told the Nawab

* No. 18. † No. 425. ‡ No. 592. § No. 13. ‖ No. 196.

he had never known the English for four years guilty of breaking their word, to the truth of which he took his oath by touching a Brahmin's foot, and that if a lie could be proved in England on any one they were spit upon and never trusted.* In January 1757 his effects were ordered to be sequestered for disloyalty, but as there was no direct evidence, the measure was not carried out.† Clive describes Omichund as intriguing and recommends him a visit of devotion to Malda.‡ The black inhabitants of Calcutta petitioned that Omichund might not share in the restitution money of 20 lacs granted to the Bengalis, the Government rejected the petition, though the people shewed that the Nawab's colors were hoisted in his house, his goods were not plundered, and that his two servants conducted the Nawab into Calcutta, broke open the prison house, released the criminals and plundered the town.§

In 1759 the Bengal Government got a wigging from the Court for making a contract with Omichund for 58,000 maunds of saltpetre at 6 Arcot Rs. the maund, when Mr. Parkes contracted at Patna for 51,000 maunds at 2-14 Sicca per maund; thus the Government lost by Omichund Rs. 70,000.‖

Omichund by his will left Rs. 1,500 to the Treasurer of the Foundling Asylum, the same to the Magdalen, both were paid.¶

Nankumar.

The character of Nunkumar appears in a very bad light in the Records; he was guilty of fraud, treachery, in fact, he was a consummate villain. There is one volume in the Foreign office which shews the series of forged correspondence he had made in order to implicate certain Natives. Warren Hastings brought this home to him, hence the origin of his deeply-seated hate against Warren Hastings.** In 1767 he endeavored to ruin Nabakissen by bringing a false charge of rape against him.†† The Governor brings gross charges of maladministration against him.‡‡ Nunkumar was denounced by Kasim Ali Khan in 1761 as undoubtedly a traitor.§§ He was imprisoned in 1763. We find a letter from the Governor to the Nawab complaining of his oppressing the people, which if it continues, they will be trampled under foot.‖‖ In 1764 there is a letter from Raja Dulabram shewing that Nunkumar had monopolised some six offices at Murshidabad, connected with the Treasury, to himself.

* No. 224. † No. 232. ‡ No. 261. § No. 346.
‖ No. 433. ¶ No. 908. ** No. 733. †† No. 965.
‡‡ Nos. 786 533. §§ No. 708. ‖‖ Nos. 786 710.

The Nuddea Raja's family occupies a niche in the temple of fame, its history being given in a German work drawn from the Sanskrit Library of Sir R. Chambers, which was sold to the King of Prussia.

The Nuddea Raja.

The Raja himself was the Mœnas of Sanskrit learning and pundits in Bengal. He bestowed immense sums on the logicians of Nuddea, and on pujas. A lac of rupis was given to celebrating the marriage of two monkeys.

Unfortunately those Records shew him as a great defaulter in his revenue payments,* on account of which he was threatened with the loss of caste and imprisonment. His excuses for non-payment were abundant, at one time the Dasharra holidays, then the Dewali, and then his wife was sick.†

The Birbhum Raja was a Mahomedan, fond of plunder, and a bitter enemy to the English. Jaffir Ali Khan pronounced him a traitor.‡

The Birbhum Raja.

Many of the Dutch, after the defeat at Bidarra, took refuge in Birbhum. Telingas or Sepahis at the same time ran away to the Raja's service.§ The Raja himself fled from Nagore.‖ In 1763 the Raja, at the head of 300 horse, 400 foot, and 5 pieces of cannon, had an action with the English near Suri; he was defeated; soon after Kamdar Khan came at the head of 6,000 Patan horse, some Portuguese and Armenians, 1,000 Sepahis with cannon to within 5 coss of Suri. On this the English nailed up the guns, burnt Suri Fort, and retreated.

Hugly was an important place last century, both for its trade and the political influence of the Mahomedans; hence we find the Phausdar of Hugly an important person, the English gave him an annual present of Rs. 2,700.¶

The Hugly Phausdar.

The Burdwan province comes often into notice in connection with its Raja Tillok Chand, a great defaulter in paying up his revenue. This district called the Garden of Bengal was a favorite ground for the Mahrattas collecting *lut.***

Burdwan.

The Burdwan Raja was very powerful early last century; in 1755 he stopped the English trade entirely in his district; the English

* No. 357. † No. 510. ‡ No. 501. § No. 497.
‖ No. 536. ¶ No. 15. ** Nos. 446, 491, 513, 541, 542.

pronounced his conduct extremely insolent, but with three hundred soldiers in Calcutta they could only appeal to the Nawab.*

In 1760 the Raja had an engagement with some Sipahis, in which 50 of the latter were killed.† The same year we have an accurate account of the Burdwan statistics and Raja's accounts.

The Burdwan Raja in 1760 raised a motley army of 15,000, composed of peons, robbers, and pikes. He and the Birbhum Raja formed a league, but to no effect, and the Nawab Kasim Ali wrote that he hoped the Government would not be backward in chastising the Raja, as he is of a bad caste‡ The Raja as a last desperate game resolved to join the Mahrattas,§ the very people that had been reducing his Garden of Burdwan to a wilderness. The next report about him is that he had absconded,‖ and we have the account of Captain White's march on Burdwan.¶ The Raja joined with the Faquirs, but it was little use.**

It is singular there is scarcely any notice of Bissenpore, though the Raja boasted of a line extending back 1,000 years, and though his chief town is a curiosity with its line of seven walls of circumvallation and immense sized tanks.†† We have a letter of his on the plunder of Bissenpore and of his being carried prisoner to Burdwan.‡‡

Warren Hastings.

Warren Hastings' correspondence and minutes fill a considerable space in these Records. He was at Murshidabad when the members of the English Government were prisoners on board their ships off the pestiferous shores of Fulta; he then at the risk of his life supplied the Authorities with valuable information about the movements of the Native powers.§§ He wrote from Murshidabad after the capture of Calcutta that "the English were never mentioned but with pity and contempt." In 1761, distinguished by the knowledge he exhibited of the country and its languages, as well as by his sympathy for the Natives, he was elected to council. It was his opposition to the war with the Nawab that led to that fracas in council when he received a slap on the face from Mr. Batson, one of the Members of the war party; this led Mr. Vansittart to declare he would not sit in council were Mr. Batson to continue; the latter was consequently excluded.

* Nos. 147, 151. † No. 468. ‡ Nos. 512, 516. § No. 519.
‖ No. 533. ¶ No. 534. ** No. 559. †† No. 252.
‡‡ No. 540. §§ No. 196-198.

In 1761, when Colonel Coote had to nogotiate with the Nawab, he appointed Warren Hastings his Interpreter.* In 1763 Warren Hastings published a Minute in favor of a Black Act.†

Holwell.

Zephania Holwell, who rose from being Surgeon in 1748‡ to be temporary Governor of Bengal in 1760, fills a niche in these records in his administration of the revenues of Calcutta, where he was very clever in detecting the frauds practised on the Company. Subsequently he played a distinguished part at the period of the Black Hole. Not working in harmony with the Court of Directors, he resigned the service and lived in England to a green old age, dying in 1798 and proving to the local History of Bengal what Rennel has been to its topographical.

Bolts.

Bolts published last century two ponderous quarto volumes against the Company; many of these so-called charges appear in a different light from the records, which show him to have been a troublesome man, not ready to obey the orders of his superiors, and engaging in that private trade which brought him into collision with the Natives. He was convicted of carrying on a clandestine correspondence with the Country Powers and was in consequence deported. He retired with a fortune of six lacs, but the unhappy state of his domestic relations soured his mind, his wife having run away with an official at Benares.

Verelst, Vansittart.

These gentlemen seem to have stood better with the Court of Directors, than with the historians of India; the former in 1766 received high commendation for the ability with which they brought to light the secret frauds that had been going on in the collections at Dinapore for many years.

Mussulmans.

The Persian correspondence and records show that all administrative power was in the hands of Mahomedans; the Hindus were engaged in financial or revenue matters; they were the penmen and had to transact business in Persian, which was the official language; the great land-owners of Bengal, were, however, Hindus.

The Moslem fakirs were occasionally very turbulent, and even fought battles in large bodies.§

* No. 570. † No. 634. ‡ No. 54. § No. 690.

Clive in his time represented the Mussulmans as always ripe for revolt, only biding their time.*

Beggars.

The beggars or fakir class were, last century, like the lazarroni of Naples, sturdy jolly fellows at home, and able to take their share in fighting abroad; we have cases where fakirs fought with the regular troops.

In 1759, the Calcutta fakirs or sunnyassies presented a petition to Government that they might be permitted to levy a black mail of 5 cowries on each shop, to be divided among them all, as since the Company's ghâts were erected the shop-keepers refused to give alms.†

In 1761, we have an account of a battle of the English with the Burdwan Raja and fakirs.‡ In 1763, Warren Hastings mentions that a large body of fakirs infested the country about Backergunge. Soon after, on the retaking of Dacca, the fakirs who were made prisoners were ordered to be employed as coolies in repairing the factory.§

Mahrattas.

The alarm inspired by the Mahrattas, those Indian Cossacks, was very great. Bengali mothers used to teach their children the expression *borgi bánga*; and houses in Burdwan still contain the cellars they used for concealing their valuables when the Mahrattas were in the land. It was one of the reasons why Calcutta was placed on the left bank of the Hugly, as the river secured them against Mahratta raids, though they made a ditch round it in 1742. In 1748, the main body of the Mahrattas was near Burdwan,‖ and they had plundered the Kasimbazar boats.¶ They had an action with an English ship at Dean's Town, near Diamond Harbour. The same year** they were also at Balasore. Next year they appear near Murshidabad and Rajmahal. These records show their plundering Tanna fort, where the Botanic Gardens are now, as late as 1760. The same year all the money was withdrawn from the factories in Burdwan in consequence of a Mahratta raid, and the revenues could not be collected.†† They continued three months, burning, plundering, and laying waste the whole country. The inhabitants fled.‡‡ They took Balasore.§§ In 1761,

* No. 365. † No. 419. ‡ No. 538. § No. 690. ‖ No. 7.
¶ No. 10. ** No. 48. †† No. 446. ‡‡ No. 491. §§ No. 509.

Midnapur was in a perilous position, being invested by the Mahrattas for 14 days, and the garrison in the fort was reduced to the verge of starvation.*

The East India Company's Policy.

Large territorial acquisitions were always opposed on account of the expense of the military operations and the difficulty of keeping them.† Hence Agra, in 1758, was considered unsuitable as a Residency on account of the distance, and the great cities being so frequently plundered by Afghans and Moguls.‡ They were averse to having, as they stated in 1759, their capital sunk in stone walls. "You seem to forget your employers are merchants, and trade their principal object."§

They always wished the civil element to predominate over the military.‖ This led to a long and angry correspondence between Major Carnac and the Calcutta Authorities. The Major claimed that the troops he commanded should not be employed in acts of oppression, and wrote a strong minute against civilians ruling officers.¶

Their servants abroad were brought into close contact with foreigners, hence collisions were apt to arise. The Court was always anxious to smooth the angry waters of local or national prejudice.** The Court exercised a moderating influence in the often difficult relations and misunderstandings which sprung up between the Company's servants and foreigners, which brought the Dutch and English often to the brink of war.

The silk trade received early attention from the Company; they sent out from England a Mr. Wilder to superintend it.††

The Home Government were sometimes biassed by individuals returning to England and giving party-colored statements of matters in India. The Bengal Council, in 1759, sent a strong and spirited remonstrance against this course of proceeding, "in receiving groundless informations, proceeding from those who had obviously their own purposes to serve, no matter at whose expense. We are faithful to little purpose if the breath of scandal, joined to private pique or private and personal attachments, have power to blow away in one breath merits of many years' service."‡‡

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* No. 560. † Nos. 406; 743. ‡ No. 282.
§ No. 435. ‖ No. 322. ¶ No. 796.
** No. 598. †† No. 215. ‡‡ No. 402.

It was a standing policy of the East India Company that in order to prevent oppression of the Natives and complications with Native Governments, no European should own land; in 1758 a stringent order came out on the subject.* All Europeans, not in the service of Government, were ordered down to Calcutta; there were Members of Council, and among them Mr. Verelst, who were opposed to this.†

Taxation.

There never has been a popular tax, and the first attempt of the Calcutta Authorities to levy a tax was anything but popular; though the road between the Fort and Sutanutty was washed away in 1748 by the river, the merchants refused to have it repaired by a cess on land, but the Government advanced the money and ordered that it should be repaid out of the merchants' accounts current.

Among items of reference in 1752 are duties on marriages and slaves, salamy on bricks, on ferry boats, servants' wages forfeited, burthened oxen, the property of prostitutes, was confiscated to the Government revenue.

About 1755 Calcutta was in a flame, as a 5 per cent. duty was imposed on the sale of houses; the opposition was led by a Captain Durand; the duty was remitted eventually, but the Captain was deported.‡

In 1760 the Grand Jury denounced the duty on the provisions and the necessaries of life as increasing the dearness of living in Calcutta, consequently preventing the lower classes from residing and increasing the rate of wages.§

Revenue.

The rule for collecting the revenue was payment by pressure; the Sipahis were the agents: we find one battalion of Sipahis was posted in Bahar for this purpose.

The revenues were generally farmed out, which is truly described in a Despatch to the Court as "farming out to Ministers, Officers, favorites, and dependents of Government, who will rear immense fortunes on the oppression and ruin of the public."

* No. 340. † No. 787. ‡ No. 211. § No. 473.

The seniority principle, or rising in the service gradually and according to standing, gave rise to some of the bitterest controversies, which shook the Government to its foundation. The records teem with constant complaints from individuals.*

The Seniority principle.

Clive had to face a fearful storm, when some of the Senior Bengal Civilians being suspended, and no Juniors being qualified, he had to send to Madras to recruit the ranks, justifying the measure by the desperate state of the Company's affairs, as well as the laxity and corruption of Calcutta. The excitement in Calcutta was tremendous in consequence among the services. A meeting was held at Mr. Vansittart's Garden House, when it was resolved "that the Madras gentlemen should be treated with insolence and contempt, and that any person belonging to the Settlement who should presume to show the least civility or countenance should be branded with ignominy and banished society,"—and no civil servant was to dine with Lord Clive.

The failure of Commandant Minchin in the Fort, as well as of Drake at the capture of Calcutta, convinced the Court what little regard ought to be paid to seniority in the Military line.†

The Bengal Government remonstrated against a violation by the Home Government of the seniority principle‡ they published in No. 895, a despatch showing the advantages of gradual promotion in the service and thereby retiring ultimately with an independence.

At an early period the Government awoke to a sense of the importance of their servants knowing the country language, and we find a Mr. Bristow was recalled from Cuttack in consequence of his ignorance of it.§ The Court sent out an order that public proclamations were to be in different languages.‖ Lord Clive bears testimony of the great services of Mr. Watts by his thorough knowledge of the language and people of this country.¶ Still they thought that Rs. 300 a month was too high salary for a Translator.**

Vernaculars.

In 1764 the Government passed an order "that as Major Munro is entirely unacquainted with the language of the country as well as of the manners and customs of the people, one of the Members of the Board shall accompany him to the field.††

* No. 637. † No. 298. ‡ No. 401. § No. 355.
‖ No. 174. ¶ No. 272. ** No. 594. †† No. 793; 806.

Recruits.

The subject of keeping up a supply of fresh European troops is constantly brought up. We find in 1758 Clive describes the recruits brought out as "very often fitter for an hospital than for duty." The recruiting, it seems, was done by contractors, and, "contractors chose that can be got cheapest, and these will be the worst."*

Survey Department.

The Survey, with its expenditure of from 5,000 to 10,000 rupees monthly, in 1768 called forth a remonstrance of the Court, its expenditure now of 23 lacs annually presents a wide contrast.

After the re-capture of Calcutta and the acquisition of the 24-Pergunnahs, one of the first measures was to have it surveyed, but there were no competent surveyors; the Government as a *dernier ressort* applied to Admiral Watson to know could he furnish any from the fleet; he replied it was "a work requiring so much care and exactness, I know none in the squadron capable of it."† Eventually, a Mr. Frankland was appointed in 1760, and he made a five months' survey tour, in which he collected most valuable information. No. 380. His report is in the India House.

Rennel was one of the first surveyors; by his accurate research and excellent maps, he won for himself the title of the Indian Herodotus.

Martin, a ship-wrecked soldier, who arrived in Calcutta about 1760 a penniless pauper from the siege of Pondicherry, but with brains, had a captain's commission conferred on him and joined the survey. There is still a map of his of the 24-Pergunnahs made about 1764; he afterwards went to Lucknow, where he became a General and died a millionaire.

Slaves.

The first mention of slaves is of ten Malabar men being transported as slaves to St. Helena, but as five of them killed themselves rather than work, the Court determined no more should be sent.‡ In 1761, in the expedition ordered to Mauritius and Bourbon, it was directed that they should procure as many slaves from thence as possible.§ In 1763 the Court sent ships chartered to Madagascar to procure a supply of slaves for their settlement on the west coast‖.

* No. 367. † No. 245. ‡ No. 219. § No. 573. ‖ Nos. 616, 732.

Punishments.

The punishments, in a country where torture from time immemorial has been an instrument of police, and where 14 different kinds have practised in the schools, were of course severe. Among those mentioned are—

Impaling.—In 1764 it was ordered, in consequence of the increase of robberies and murder in the Sunderbunds, that "the murderers should be impaled, which will be very serviceable to traders."*

Cutting off the nose and ears.—We find "that a Captain Dow ordered this punishment to be inflicted on all black servants falsifying accounts.†

The Stocks.—"If any person of no substance use force or strike any person in disputes about land, he is to be kept one whole day in the stocks."‡

Blowing from a gun.—This was an old Mogul punishment; the Government finding in 1760 the usual method of punishing capital crimes in the 24-Pergunnahs was by whipping to death, ordered blowing from a gun as being more deterrent, more public and more humane.§ In 1761 orders were given at Lakhipur "to fire off the mouth of a cannon the leader of the thieves who was made prisoner, that others may be deterred."‖

Hanging was a punishment introduced by the English in the case of Nunkumar, but we have in 1766¶ a petition of the natives of Calcutta against hanging a man for forgery; a remarkable case, contradicting the assertion that forgery was first made a capital offence in the case of Nunkumar.

Deporting to England was the chief punishment of Government.

The jail was resorted to, but the one in Lal Bazar was so badly built that a number of French prisoners undermined it and escaped. In another jail, men and women were huddled together. In 1763 there was a petition from unfortunate debtors regarding their imprisonment at that time; some debtors passed their lives in jail.**

Drowning, either from a boat or by being tied up in a bag, was common; Jagat Set met his death this way, being flung like a dog from one of the bastions of the Monghyr fort.

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* No. 775. † No. 789. ‡ No. 957. § No. 479.
‖ No. 557. ¶ Nos. 840, 626. ** Nos. 672, 753, 758.

One hundred lashes with the chabuck or whip every Friday was occasionally inflicted.* We have an account of an European who, opposite to the very door of the Council, "seized Benautram Chatterjee, had his hands and feet tied, swung him upon a bamboo like a hog, carried him to his own house and with his own hands *chabucked* (whipped) him in the most cruel manner, and endeavored to force beef into his mouth to the irreparable loss of his (Bramin's) caste."†

Presents.

Presents "to make the Durbar easy" were early in use, thus in 1748 Government proposed purchasing a fine Arab horse to propitiate the Nawab.‡ The Nawab received in 1754 a Persian horse and some fine wax work. The presents made to the Nawab let us into the prices and nature of some articles, Gold watches were often presented, as in 1764 two gold watches and chains with diamonds, value Rs. 12,960; one gold clock set with diamonds Rs. 5,400. In 1763 a glass fountain Rs. 1,000; 3 boxes with wax-figures, Rs. 1,200. In 1764 among the presents for the Nawab's children, one silver tooth-pick, Rs. 9, one Chelsea smelling bottle, Rs. 18; one snuff-box painted with figures, Rs. 6; 3 pair of pistols, Rs. 360. Among Lord Clive's Durbar presents in 1766 were 2 tweezer cases, Rs. 75; 2 snuff-boxes, Rs. 129; expenses for feeding wild beasts and making a place for them to fight in Rs. 3,843; for fire-works Rs. 12,179.

Postal Communications.

Runners were employed at an early period to carry the letters, which in those days of isolation were few and far between; there were no roads but tracks through the jungles beset with tigers, which could only be kept off by lighted torches and the harsh notes of the drum. In 1748 there were dâk runners between Cuttack and Ganjam; they were very indolent, and it was proposed to substitute mounted postmen for them; they were in the line to Madras, but we find that between March and September no communication from Calcutta reached Madras, on which the Governor of Calcutta remarked "it is not worth while to put the Company to the expense of Kasids when we have nothing to advise. In 1768, however, a C. Williams was appointed to superintend the Kasids or mounted postmen to be sent to the different factories. The same year a Kasid

* No. 413. † No. 463. ‡ No. 135.

post was established between Calcutta and Ballasore *viâ* Midnapur and Jellasore, but very bitter were the complaints of the postmen of the difficulty in procuring oil and the almost impassable jungles they had to tread. In 1764 the Government, finding that letters pass in a short time between Bombay and Puna, a principal town of the Mahrattas, requested the Mahratta chief at Cuttack to expedite his Kasids along the route from Calcutta to Bombay *viâ* Cuttack and Puna. A line had long been opened to Murshidabad, and it was thought a wonderful effort to reach that place from Calcutta in three days. There was a daily post from Dacca.

In 1763 the Faujdar of Rajmehal seized the dâk runners and stopped for a time the communication between Calcutta and Benares which lay through Agradip, Murshidabad, Rajmehal, Sikriguli, Bhagulpur. There was a daily dâk to Patna.

Overland.

The sea route to England was not only tedious, a six or eight months' voyage,* but it was also dangerous; war between England and France was chronic, and French cruisers often captured English vessels, watching for them off the Sandheads or in the chops of the channel; hence the Company's letters and despatches were always triplicate. On special occasions, however, letters were sent *viâ* Bombay, Bussora and Aleppo; the news of the battle of Plassey reached England through the latter channel.

Robbery.—Gang robbery was a recognised profession, and zemindars generally kept them under their protection.

The Sunderbunds were the grand resort of these dakaits.

The Government in 1766 apprized the Court of the tendency of the zemindars to defraud the Court under various pretences, and along with Rajas to assume an independent power after they had fleeced the people and fattened upon the spoils of the public.

Municipal.

Of the old municipal system few traces remain, the English were too busy before 1767 in fighting for existence to have leisure to enquire into the condition of the

* In 1757 the *Syria* sloop arrived in England from Calcutta in less than four months.

country. There is mention of the canungoes of Burdwan applying for their annual allowance.*

In 1757 the Government issued an order that workmen should be incorporated and should elect a chaudri or headman to represent them.* This is similar to the Russian plan of the artel.

Zemindars.

The Mussulmans when they came into Bengal, and, acting on feudal principles, were opposed to that beautiful system of village self-government which had so long been a tower of strength to the ryots; instead of it a military tenure was adopted and the revenues were collected by sipahis. The zemindar was a semi-military collector of revenue, which was realised at the point of the sword, a practice adopted even by the English when they first took possession of Burdwan, Birbhum and Nuddea.

The records do not throw much light on the original position of the zemindar. We find, however, complaints from the izardars or ancient farmers of 24-Pergunnahs that that former flourishing state was in decay owing to the unjust or exorbitant taxes put on the lands by the zemindars (or rather by the different Nawabs.)†

We have an account of the Nawab or zemindary black mail (No. 442,) in the Hugly district.

The punishments usual in Zemindaries for defaulting farmers were imprisonment with confiscation of their effects. The authorities added corporal punishment.‡

We have in 1766 the form of a lease to a zemindar, which prescribes the rents are not to be increased on the present ryots, nor any ryots turned out who duly pay their rent.§

Ryots.

The authorities make mention of the ryots first on the acquisition of the 24-Pergunnahs. When the lands were farmed out for three years, the authorities found it was so necessary to guard against the grinding of the ryots by the middlemen that they declined farming the lands to a few leading natives.

* No. 240. † No. 441. ‡ Nos. 753, 758. § No. 863.

The practice in Burdwan and other districts was to collect the revenues by means of sipahis, while in former days refractory ryots had sipahis quartered on them.*

An order of the collector was issued in 1760 forbidding the farmer to turn out the ryots at pleasure, "as the under-farmers being either at an uncertainty in the possession of their farms or limited to a short time will not give so high rents for the lands, their situation not admitting of their laying out money for the improvement of their farms, which may be taken from them at the discretion of the head farmer."† Complaints of oppression of ryots in Hugly and Burdwan were made.‡

In 1763 the Sets having purchased a talook complained that the ryots ran away on account of the violences committed by the people belonging to the English boats; the Governor gave strict orders to put a stop to such proceedings.§ The Nawab made a formal complaint in 1764 regarding sipahis and hircarras in the name of the English Company going into the country and oppressing the ryots.‖ The Board came to the conclusion not to farm lands to Nabakissen or Gokul, because land farmed to wealthy Natives leads to ryot opperssion.¶ The collector's regulations, in 1767, were very favorable to the ryot, 957.

The APPENDICES contain papers which throw light on the state of Assam and Nipal last century; on the hill tribes of Rajmehal, and Clevland's interesting labors among them, as well as an important minute of Lord Minto's regarding the encouraging Sanskrit learning in Nuddea and Tirhut by the establishment of scholarships and new colleges.

* No. 861. † No. 476. ‡ No. 698. § No. 698. ‖ No. 797. ¶ No. 951.

SELECTIONS

FROM

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS OF GOVERNMENT

RELATING MAINLY TO

THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF BENGAL

IN THE

LAST CENTURY.

THE following dated February 1748 is the earliest entry in the Government Records deposited in Calcutta:—

1.—*Alarm excited by the Mahrattas.*

[BENGAL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY.]

At a Consultation, present:

THE HON'BLE JOHN FORSTER, *President.*
MR. WILLIAM BARWELL,
„ ADAM DAWSON,
„ HUMPHRY BELLAMY,
„ WILLIAM FYTCHE,
„ WILLIAM KEMPE down the river.*

The Book of standing orders lying on the table.

The 25th.—We received a letter from Edward Eyles, Esq., &c., Council at Cossimbazar, dated the 19th instant, advising of their having sent Ensign McKion with all the Military that were able to travel, one hundred and fifty buxerries, four field pieces, and a large quantity of ammunition, to Cutway with orders to the Ensign to make enquiry in which state the fleet really was, and to endeavour to secure all the goods he possibly could; that they would have again applied to the Nabob to assist them with the forces that were gone that way in protecting their goods, which he readily consented to do, and orders were sent accordingly. That they have great reason to complain of Ensign

* The next Consultations state William Kempe continues down the river, doubtless for health the river in those days was the only sanitarium.—*Ed.*

English's conduct for not waiting at Placy [Plassey], and advising them of the opposition he met with before we came to that place whereby they could easily have sent him the above-mentioned reinforcement and supply of ammunition, as well as have directed him how to act, and that had he staid another day at Placy, as Tullerooy Cawn was marching with a large force towards Cutway, they presume the Mahrattas would have retreated inland on their approach and left him an open passage, and though the accounts they have received differ in many circumstances, yet all agree that the Ensign, by the encouragement the Mahrattas gave him of passing quietly, went out of deep water and of a place he might have defended himself till he was reinforced, and by placing too much confidence in their assurances left his Budgrow and put himself in their power. That as they had reason to think from these confirmed accounts the Ensign was guilty of great mismanagement they thought proper to send Ensign McKion to take the command from him. That their Vacqueils have informed them that ten horsemen belonging to Bellaray have arrived at Patna to demand the reason of Sumsheer Cawn assassinating Tindelaund Cawn. When they knew that Bellaray was coming to receive the Chowte the Nabob had agreed to pay him. That the Nabob told the Vacqueils that as Bellaray was now within a few days' march of Patna, he should shortly set out for that place, and advised them to take care of themselves, as he expected the Mahrattas would, on his leaving the city, be all round them, they therefore begged of us to send them as large a reinforcement as can possibly be spared from Calcutta on these approaching troubles.

Yesterday we received another letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbazar, dated the 21st instant, enclosing copies of the examinations of three soldiers and the Jemindar who was sent down with Ensign English concerning what had happened in the passage of the fleet between that place and Cutway. That they endeavoured to send a person from thence to the Mahratta General to try if he could by any means obtain reparation for the same, but as such a design could not be executed there with secrecy enough to prevent its coming to the Nabob's knowledge, and the man intended to be sent being afraid of his anger declined going, they leave it to us to pursue such measures therein as we think best. That besides what the Hon'ble Company lost, the treasure and goods with the fleet belonging to private gentlemen amounted to about D. M. Rs. 35,000. That being informed the Mahrattas had left Cutway and carried every thing away from thence, they thought proper to recall

the Ensign and Military they sent thither. That the Nabob still continues there under a very great dilemma, for should he leave the city to go and assist Bellaray against Sumsheer Cawn, the whole body of Mahrattas are gathering together and advancing this way in order to march into Muxadabad on the Nabob's leaving it; that the forces which were lately at Placy returned to Muxadabad, and the Mahrattas are near at hand. That a small party of them was at Chunepoor garden, but did no great damage. That in the situation they hope we will reinforce their garrison as soon as possible and send them up a sufficiency of ammunition, for since what has happened at Cutway the Mahrattas may grow less timorous of the European valour and make an attack upon them. That it being very uncertain whether they may be able to send down any more goods with safety, and the merchants refusing to let them be sorted unless they absolutely agreed to take them, they thought proper to let them alone till they received our directions concerning them. That they, merchants, hope we will please to order them to be taken (though they are delivered in so late), as they were provided upon account of their last year's contract and they will be very great sufferers by the Company if they are not, because they cannot dispose of them anywhere else.

At the same time we received a letter from Mr. Henry Kelsall, Resident at Ballasore, dated the 13th instant, enclosing charges general and cash account for January, and advising that the Tappies [dâk runners] on the road to Ganjam being grown so exceedingly indolent that he has called them in, being convinced that our packets may be forwarded much faster by Cassids [mounted postmen]; for should they be longer upon the road than is customary, he can punish them on their return, which is impossible to be done with the Tappies, as the Pair that arrives there always lays the blame upon those at Cuttack.

2.—*Low state of the Treasury at Madras.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY.]

In a letter from the Governor of Fort St. David's.

Concern expressed to find that no money passes their port (Madras) is equalled by their surprise that to observe none ever returns from ours (Calcutta), for they must look upon the 25 chests of treasure we have sent them as a very slender supply compared with their wants by which

they will be again plunged into the utmost difficulties; should any accident detain their outward bound shipping longer than the month of March, and we may easily judge of the uneasiness of their situation in such circumstances with so large a squadron of King's ships in the road unsupported by credit.

3.—*The Mahrattas coming by the Sunderbunds threaten Dacca.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

The Chief of the Council of Dacca states that the city of Dacca is in the utmost confusion on account of the Durbar having received advices of a large force of Mahrattas coming in by the way of Sunderbunds and that they were advanced as near as Sundra Col when first descried by their Hurcurrahs. That as they have not an answer to theirs of the 29th January, they thought proper to entertain such people, as the poor circumstances they are in would allow of, for the security of their factory.

In a letter to Kasimbazar the Council stigmatise the conduct of Ensign English as cowardly for allowing the Mahrattas to seize the Kasimbazar fleet and plunder the goods of which he was in charge; he was subsequently imprisoned, tried by Court Martial and cashiered.

4.—*Kasimbazar Merchants imprisoned.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

Eyre the Chief of Cossimbazar writes that they have confined as many of the merchants who are indebted to the Company as they could meet with, in hopes it will shortly prevail with such of them as are able to discharge their debts.

5.—*The Mahrattas near Kasimbazar.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

Eyre the Chief of Cossimbazar writes that they hear the main body of the Mahrattoes remain near Burdwan, but there are several straggling parties of them about the country that come often very near them.

6.—*The Patans plunder the Dutch.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

The Gentlemen at Patna write that the Pattans had plundered the Dutch Factory at Futtua of white cloth and other goods to the amount of 65,000 Rupees. That Sumsheer Cawn having appointed Hamett Cawn Curachea his Naib Governor of the place, the houses and shops were again opened, but the country round about is in the utmost confusion.

7.—*The Mahrattas take Tannah's* Fort near Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

Eyles Chief of Cossimbazar writes respecting the impossibility of their getting a Bill on Patna, the Shroffs having absconded on account of the extortions of the Nabob who is now at Cunia (Cutwa) about 12 coss from Muxadavad, but cannot prevail on his forces to go on without paying them more money. That upon his hearing the Mirattoes had taken Tanner's Fort he had Nowarries Mahomud C..wn to send for their Vucuels and enquire into the reason why the English suffered them to come so near them, adding it would be a very acceptable piece of service to drive them from thence. That there is a report of Meerabebs being expected at Cutway with a considerable force and a large party of Marattoes being come to Cuttea about five coss from thence.†

8.—*Ships not to come to Calcutta without special leave.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH.]

At this period and for a long time after no ship was allowed to come higher up the river than Dimond Harbour without special permission as shown in the following order—

Captain Wood, Commander of the *Colchester,* sent in a letter requesting our permission to bring her up to Calcoota.

Agreed to comply with his request and *ordered* it to be entered after this consultation.

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* Mukwah Tannah Fort stood on the site of the house occupied by the Superintendent of the Calcutta Botanical Gardens. It was mounted with guns commanding the narrow channel of the river; opposite to it stood another Fort on the site called in the present day Mettya Bruz.—*Ed.*

† The Mahrattas assembled at Hirapoor in the Sonthal Pergunnahs at this time, with an intention of attacking either Murshedabad or the Nawab at Sikri Guli.

9.—*The Pultah Zemindar plunders the Company's Boats.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL.]

The Zemindar near Pultah having stopped several boats with English Dusticks and taken money from them and disregarding the Phousdars of Houghley's orders to clear them.

Ordered the Zemindars to send Buxerries to clear the boats and bring them up as Prisoners.

10.—*The Mahrattas plunder the Kasimbazar fleet.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL.]

Mr. Foster having sent to the Morattoes about the Hon'ble Company's Raw Silk which they plundered at Cutway and the Persons employed by him having received an answer to their address

Ordered that they be summoned to attend the Board.

11.—*A Zemindar stole a bale of Goods.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL.]

Some of our merchants complained to us that they had goods coming down on their Dadney Contracts, which were stopped at Hajiruhattee by Rajah Aunoopanian, one bale whereof was stole and that the Zemindar suspected of the action is gone to Muxadabad.

Ordered that the goods be demanded as belonging to the Company.

12.—*Alarming news from French Pilots at Balasore.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL.]

A letter from Mr. Henry Kellsall, Resident at Balasore, dated the 10th instant, advising of the (arrival) three French Pilots from Chandernagore in palankeens who give out, they daily expect a squadron there, and that the *Sybil*, a French ship, which touched at Pondicherry, brought the news of 16 ships being arrived at the Island, among them three king's ships.

13.—*Omichund, the Bengali Millionaire.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 25.]

Omichund, the Bengali Millionaire, appears now for the first time on the stage. He seems to have been a man whom the English found necessary as an agent but who made enormous profits by them.

Omichund was now asked if he had received advices from Boan Sing, whether he could recover the whole or any part of the Company's goods, to which he replied that his advices from Boan Sing were that the Marattoes were on a march to Patna, and the people who plundered the silk had sold the greatest part, that perhaps it might be procured for the same price it sold for, which was about five Rupees per seer and he hears the goods are opened and much damaged.

Ordered Omichund to write another letter to Boan Sing to get what justice he can for the Company.

Omichund procured the following letter from the Mahratta General:—

[*Translation of a letter from Johnugee, General of the Morattoes to Omichund.*]

Bowan Sing has arrived with me and acquainted me of the depredations made on the Company's boats, had I been informed of it before I should have made strict enquiry among the army about it. But after the boats were plundered the prisoners that were brought from them never made use of the Company's name, otherwise I should have stopped all the goods. Now they are dispersed among many and in divers places, however to oblige you what steps I have taken Bowan Sing will advise you. I am now going to Patna to destroy my enemies and transact some other affairs, which has occasioned a delay, however when I arrived at Boglepore, I will use all my endeavours to recover all your goods.

JOHNUGEE.

14.—*Malda gomastahs plundered by the Nawab's people.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 2.]

Yesterday we received a letter from Edward Eyles, Esq., Chief of Council at Cossimbazar dated the 29th April, advising that our merchants gomastahs at Malda have complained that some of the Nabob's

people had been there and treated them very ill for refusing to comply with their demands for large sums of money, and threatening to plunder their effects in case they stood out. That on receipt of their letter they informed Newarris Muhomed Cawne and Chamerage thereof and requested them to write to the Nabob about it, to which they answered that they should be very willing to comply with their request but apprehended the Nabob's affairs were in such a state at that time that their writing to him would avail but little.

15.—*The Hugly Phausdar's annual presents.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY.]

The Hugly Phausdar demanding the usual annual present due in November last amounting to Current Rupees two thousand seven hundred and fifty (2,750)—*Agreed* that the President do pay the same out of the cash.

16.—*Dutch hostilities against the French.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 16.]

Galenus Mersen, the Dutch Governor of Negapatam, writes to the Governor of Fort St. David's April $\frac{9}{17}$*—

Our high superiors at Batavia have resolved in consequence of the hostilities that have been committed by the Crown of France upon the territories and places of our sovereign in the Netherlands without declaring war, to repel force by force and to do that nation all possible damage in these ports by sea and land, and have likewise strenuously commanded us and the ministers of the Governments and Settlements belonging to our Company not only to break off all correspondence and traffic with that nation, but also to prevent the least help or assistance from being given to them even in the most indifferent matters, and, on the contrary, to entertain the strictest correspondence with you and your nation as our allies that the mutual preservation of both requires, and in case of need to afford you all the assistance in our power in order to intimidate our common enemy and ward off the blows which they intend us.—We shall punctually fulfil and obey that order.

* This fraction denotes the respective periods of old and new style as is used in the present day in Russia.—*Ed.*

17.—*Dutch hostility to the French.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY.]

The Dutch Deputies from Hugly attended the Council to acquaint the Governor of the orders of their superiors prohibiting all manner of intercourse between their Settlement and that of Chandernagore, and have also given orders to their pilots to be cautious how they trust to colours, and on no account whatever to give any assistance to the French.

18.—*The Sets Native Merchants before Council object to doing business with men of a different caste.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 23.]

The merchants were now called in and asked what sums they would have affixed to their several names and sets which they now settled at the Board.

The Sets being all present at the Board inform us that last year they dissented to the employing of Fillick Chund, Gosserain, Occore, and Otteram, they being of a different caste* and consequently they could not do business with them, upon which account they refused Dadney, and having the same objection to make this year, they propose taking their shares of the Dadney† if we should think proper to consent thereto.

19.—*An Anglo-Dutch alliance.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY.]

The Dutch are very anxious to secure the friendship of the English against the French, as they were afraid of their attacking their fort at Chinsura. In reply to a letter from‡ the English Governor, the Dutch Governor of Hugly states—

In consequence they have given the necessary orders to bring their Company's ship up to Barnagore to be unloaded, from whence they will order her down to Calcutta to assist us against the French in case of their attacking this place, and for this purpose they will likewise

* The Sets were Jains. These caste objections are curious. The Sets were the Rotschilds of that day and wielded a great political influence. The proposal respecting the Dadney was accepted on the ground "that they are people who have lived long in this place, and are entirely under the protection of the English."—*Ed.*

† The Dadney was the advance received for work to be done or goods to be supplied.—*Ed.*

‡ News arrived of a French squadron having appeared off Negapatam. The English and Dutch were in great state of excitement in consequence.—*Ed.*

order all their expected Company's ships to be brought to Barnagore as they come into the river, but on condition that we give them sufficient assurances that we neither will take into our service or grant refuge to any of the sailors or others belonging to the ships which may be employed in our assistance, but to deliver them up immediately.

20.—*Cash balances low; contracts for* 30 *lacs.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY.]

In a letter to the Court the Council state—

That we had only about two hundred and fifty thousand (2,50,000) Rupees in the treasury in the month of May to begin their investment with; however, after canvassing with the merchants for fifteen or twenty days we have entered into a contract with them on Dadney and ready money goods for near thirty lacs of rupees, of which we hope that the best part will come in, and had we been supplied with a further sum of money, we should not doubt of getting in the whole. That we have sent eight chests of bullion to Dacca and six to Jugdea, but have not been able to supply Cossimbazar.

21.—*Little communication between Madras and Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER.]

Letter from the Governor and Council at Fort St. David, dated the 17th ultimo, expressing their surprise at not having heard from us since the 17th March per *Pryal Snow*, as we must be sensible of what consequence frequent advices are in these precarious times.

To this the Council make the pithy reply:—

It is not worth while to put the Company to the expense of Cossids here when we have nothing to advise.

22.—*River Survey.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 28.]

An annual survey was regularly made of the river;* this is the first on record, in it mention is made of Fulta Sand, Rogues river, the James and Mary; the Surveyor J. Ransom states:—

I find no sensible alteration in the river since the last survey—Coucolly only excepted, where is a good navigable channel opened within

* These Surveys do not throw light on the problem whether the main depth of the Hugly is lessening.—The surveys were not made scientifically.—*Ed.*

the buoy of the flat of the shore, preferable either to the outward channel commonly called the new channel or the old channel of Coucolly; without the buoy the shoal water going through not exceeding a short mile, which is about 15 feet at low water.

The east and west channel is much the same as last year. I do not think it safe crossing over upon an ebb tide with a ship above 16 feet draft. For ships above that draft it is necessary they should await a leading wind to carry them over the shoal part of the flat before the water is any thing fallen.

23.—*Outrages of Seamen.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 12.]

From ROBERT WILSON, Esq., *to the* HON'BLE WILLIAM BARWELL, Esq., *President and Governor of Fort William, &c., Council,—(dated Apollo* at* Calcutta *12th December).*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—Last night a great number of seamen belonging to the Company's ships assembled together in a tumultuous manner ashore headed by the Boatswain of the *Lapwing*, threatening to destroy Her Majesty's subjects under my command, to cut the ship adrift, and set her on fire, upon which I sent for a guard to protect the people then ashore, which was refused. Two of my Officers who were repairing on board were met by them, but beaten and so ill treated that their lives are despaired of. I therefore demand immediate satisfaction for the great insult offered Her Majesty's ships and subjects.†

24.—*Mug‡ robbers about Dacca.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 27.]

In a letter from the Manager of the Dacca Factory.

Advised that the Mugs and robbers who have done great mischief about Dacca obliged them to keep the pinnace till the 8th of December.

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* The Apollo was a tavern in Lal Bazar, a fashionable place then.—*Ed.*

† At this time the Council at Hugly were having a correspondence with the Council of Calcutta respecting three Dutch sailors taken by an armed party of sailors near Calcutta who also killed two natives; the malefactors were sent to Europe to be tried.—*Ed.*

‡ The Mugs from Chitagan had previously been one of the chief causes of the desolation of the Sunderbunds by their plundering and devastations; they were in the 16th century there what the Maharrattas became in Bengal in the 18th century.—*Ed.*

25.—*Complaints of the Armenians at Murshidabad cause a stoppage of trade.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 27.]

Our merchants, on the 31st December, representing to us that the Nabob's action upon the complaint of the Armenians, Moguls, &c., about two of their ships being taken, had ordered Peons on all their Gomastahs at the Aurungs and stopped the boats which were bringing down their goods. We came to a resolution to threaten stopping the Armenian ships from passing our Fort, the season being too far advanced to wait for redress.

26.—*Government propose purchasing a fine Arab horse to propitiate the Nabob.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 27.]

The gentlemen at Dacca, in a letter dated the 8th instant, advised that positive orders arrived there from Muxadabad to put a stop to their business in general. In reply to the above letter, we acquainted the gentlemen at Cassimbazar that we should not be against their keeping the Durbar easy if it be done on reasonable terms, and sent them the horse, which they informed us would be agreeable to the Nabob, to lay hold of a proper opportunity to present it to him.

27.—*A land cess proposed for repairing Sutanutty Road.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 27.]

The 11th instant the Zemindar acquainting us that the road on the wharf to Sutanutty market was washed away by the river, whereby your Honour's Revenues arising from that Bazaar suffered great prejudice, we ordered him to rebuild the same by taxing the merchants who lived thereabouts in proportion to their ground.

28.—*A short supply of covenanted servants.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 27.]

In our address per *Swallow Snow* we acquainted your Honours that we were in want of covenanted servants for carrying on the business of your Offices, which we again take the liberty to request you will supply us with; as also to enclose two petitions from Messieurs William Powney and John Wood to be entertained here as such, they having assisted in your Offices some time past without any gratuity.

29.—*Dacca Civilians have scarcely common subsistence.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 11.]

The gentlemen at Dacca have since our last address informed us that their affairs remain in the same situation as when they wrote last; and by letters from Messieurs Blackford and Bellamy at Jugdea, we are informed the like stop is put to business there, and that it is a great favour that they can procure common subsistence.

30.—*The Nawab's demands make the Company's estate leak—Mahrattas near Balasore.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Your Honours having taken notice of the large sums of money which have been extorted and paid the Nabob, and having frequently complained thereof as great leaks to your estate.

Mr. Henry Kellsall, by a letter dated the 5th May, advised us of the Morattoes being encamped within sight of the Bulramghur Factory,* and that the Nabob's forces were distant but three crose from that place. And under date the 8th following he wrote us that Nillapundit with the command of a strong party of the Morattoes Horse were encamped close to the factory, and that their putting off the plundering of that place till the next morning was the saving of it, for as their Horse entered the Nabob appeared and immediately sent part of his forces over the river, who pursued him and got up with him in a very small time; that what their loss was he could not learn. Five of the head Zemindars stayed behind (on the Mahrattas flying from Cuttack) and surrendered themselves to the Nabob, who immediately cut off their heads.

31.—*The merchants refuse local taxation for roads.*†

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Mr. Edward Eyles, Zemindar, acquainted the Board on the 13th of March that he had used all means possible to get the merchants to acquiesce to an order of Council for making a wharf to the road leading to Soota Loota Bazaar‡ without which it would be in danger of being

* Bulramghur Factory was at the entrance of the Balasore river; the ruins of it are yet to be seen buried in deep jungle.—*Ed.*

† See No. 27.

‡ Sutanutty was the northern part of Calcutta, extending beyond the China Bazar to Bag Bazar, it became populated after the battle of Plassey.—*Ed.*

quite washed away next rains, and thereby extremely prejudicial to your Honours' revenues arising from that Bazaar, but to no effect. We ordered him then to repair the same out of your Honours' cash, and that the merchants' accounts current should be debited for the amount.

32.—*The first formation of the Bengal Artillery.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Major James Mosman on the 3rd of March, took his seat at the Board as third—agreeable to your Honours' orders, and was then directed to inspect the Gunroom crew and advise the Buxey when he thought it would be necessary to stop their pay, as the artillery company was to be formed therefrom. They were accordingly dismissed the 15th following.

33.—*Pensions for Europeans and Natives.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Major Mosman having laid before the Board, on the 30th of March, a list of invalids who were unfit for service, at which time we then ordered the Buxey to form a pension list in the charges general, and allow the Europeans eight Rupees per mensem and the Blacks four.*

34.—*The seniority principle.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Lieutenants David Clayton, Thomas Sewell, and Ensign Chase sent in their petitions to the Board on the 29th May, setting forth that on entering into your Honours' service they were then promised that all right of succession to vacancies should be conferred on no other Officers than those at that time promoted, and requested that they might succeed thereto. Accordingly which petitions we took into consideration, and then agreed that the old and new Officers should succeed to vacancies as they happened turn and turn, and that the command then vacant should be conferred on Lieutenant Charles Butterwicke, who had command of the Military at Dacca, to which place we sent orders for him to return to Calcutta.

* This is the first time in the Bengal Records when the term *blacks* is applied to natives; before that period the native town at Madras was called Black Town.—*Ed.*

35.—*A Major's Widow's pension Rs. 35 a month.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Mrs. Catherine Hamilton, relict of our late Commandant, petitioned us, on the 19th of June, for an allowance for herself and family, which we took into consideration the 26th and then ordered the Buxey to allow her the same as the widow of Major Hunt received, namely, Rs. 35 per mensem.

Mr. Wadhan Brooke, Chief of Cossimbazaar, is dismissed the service.

36.—*An Oath of Office.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Agreeable to your Honour's orders we took an oath to be true and faithful to your Honour's, and shall write to our friends in England, to give the usual Security.

37.—*Omichund, the Bengali Millionaire.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 10.]

Omichund, on the arrival of the treasure per *Walpole*, informed us by letter that he had entered on his own account into engagements for so considerable a part of your investment as seven lacs of Rupees and hearing the French are supplied with money, should any part thereof arrive at the Aurungs before he was able to supply his correspondents, he feared his contracts with them would be ill complied with; therefore requested us to pay him two hundred thousand Arcot Rupees (2,00,000) on his last year's balance, whereby he hoped to obviate all difficulties, and to be able to deliver in to the amount he told us he contracted for. We then ordered him a lac of Arcot Rupees, and since on the accounts being laid before us of what was due from your Honours to the merchants, the 3rd of July we ordered him six chests of bullion on the balance in his favor, and 15 per cent. to be paid the merchants' account the balance due to them.

38.—*The French take forcible possession of the Dutch Garden* at Chinsura.*

CONSULTATIONS 3RD JANUARY 1749.]

Huyghens, Director of the Dutch Settlement at Chinsura, informs the Deputy Governor of Calcutta, the Honourable Barwell, that the

* This Garden stood in the centre of Fort Augustus having three terraces rising one above the other, ornamented with flowers. See Stavorinus' Travels.—*Ed.*

French at Chandernagore have by force of arms taken possession of their Company's garden, whereby they have broke the neutrality of the Ganges.

39.—*The Council appeal to the Nawab.**

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 3.]

Agreed that the President do mention it in his Azdoss to the Nabob and acquaint him of the neutrality being broke by the French; and as the Dutch are our allies from their acting in such manner with them we have reason to apprehend they would do the same by us when in their power.

40.—*Demands of the Nawab in consequence of the Armenians' complaint.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 9.]

The 5th instant we received a letter from the Worshipfull Wadham Brooke, Esq., Chief of Council at Cossimbazar dated the 2nd, advising that a Chubdar from the Nabob came to their factory with a perwannah for the Hon'ble President, copy whereof is enclosed with an inventory of the cargoes of the two ships of which restitution is required, not only in regard to them but of things of value belong to the Nabob. That this perwannah probably may be sent to stop the clamours of the Armenians, for it is thought upon the present exigency of affairs that the Nabob will not pursue violent measures, but that he may be kept in temper upon pretty easy terms, at least till a more favorable opportunity offers. That he has heard of a fine Arab Horse that is to be disposed of in Calcutta, which it is believed will be very acceptable to him. That they have pressing demands made on them for an annual present of 3,600 siccas to Hodjee that used to be given him on account of the Sugar Aurungs, which though it does not concern the Company must be complied with before they expect a currency to business.

41.—*The Nawab's menacing letter to the English.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 11.]

Translate of the Nabob's perwannah to Governor Barwell received the 9th January 1749.

* Among them occur the names of Puttle, Kempe, and Cruttenden, well known Bengal names.—*Ed.*

The Syads, Moghuls, Armenians, &c., merchants of Houghly have complained that lakhs of Goods and Treasure with their ships you have seized and plundered, and I am informed from Foreign parts that ships bound to Houghly you seized on under pretence of their belonging to the French. The ship belonging to Antony with lakhs on Board from Mochei, and several curiosities sent me by the Sheriff of that place on that ship you have also seized and plundered. These merchants are the kingdom's benefactors, their Imports and Exports are an advantage to all men, and their complaints are so grievous that I cannot forbear any longer giving ear to them.

As you were not permitted to commit piracies therefore I now write you that on receipt of this you deliver up all the Merchants' Goods, and effects to them as also what appertains unto me, otherwise you may be assured a due chastizement in such manner as you least expect.*

42.—*The Dacca Factory's supplies stopped by Nawab's people.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 23.]

A letter from the Council at Dacca states. That they have received information of the Durbars, not only having taken Mutchullas from all the Tradesmen and Podars, not to have any transactions with them, but from the Moodys not to supply them with necessaries and provisions, which occasioning a kind of mutiny amongst their soldiers and peons, the Chief and Council was obliged to send a message, that if provisions were stopped they must get them wherever they could, for it was better to die fighting than starving, upon which a small allowance was suffered to be brought in, but they expect in a day or two all provisions will be cut off when there will be a mutiny not only on that account but on account of their arrears which they have not where-withal to pay. So that in case we have any regard for them they hope we will as soon as possible supply them with men and money sufficient to make a proper defence there becoming Englishmen, or else to make a handsome retreat. That our answer they wait with impatience; that all the Chowkees from thence to Backergunge are full of people to prevent any supplies being sent them.

* The Governor replied that the goods were seized by a king's ship over which he had no authority. That the French who were at war with the English seized Armenians' goods as belonging to an enemy.—*Ed.*

43.—*No Officers' Quarters in Calcutta, petition for lodging allowance.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 20.]

That there being yet no barracks at Fort William or Calcutta for lodging the Military Officers, and that no rooms or lodgings ready furnished can be hired in private houses nor anything less than a whole house can be hired and that at a great expense, which is yet further heightened by the necessity of bringing furniture for those houses whereby the pay appointed for the subsistence of your memorialists is almost entirely consumed.*

44.—*The Armenian and English quarrel.*

[CONSULTATIONS MAY 15, JUNE 1 AND JULY 13.]

A serious dispute arose between the Armenians and English in reference to Armenian property that was seized on board an enemy's ship by English ships of war, the Armenians appealed to the Nabob who aimed at making a profit out of both parties. The President in Council wished the Armenians to sign a document that they are satisfied with their treatment by the English, they refused and state in a petition.

The address of Armenian merchants residing in Calcutta, to the Hon'ble President and Council.

The Hon'ble President having demanded of us to sign a certificate of our being fully satisfied with regard to our claims in the India and Bussora ships now in dispute which should we sign ruin would inevitably attend us. On our non-compliance the Hon'ble President ordered us to depart the place immediately. We therefore humbly represent to your Honor, &c., that as we have lived many years under the English Flag and the Company's protection and never injured them in any respect nor committed any act repugnant to the Government of the place we hope your Honor, &c., will consider our case favorably

* There were Barracks with their Black Hole near the east curtain of Fort William.

and with justice. But if we are to be punished without any crimes laid to our charge we request the favor of two months' time to be allowed us, and we will then depart the place agreeably to your Honor &c. orders.

The Armenians firmly refuse to sign a paper to the Nabob that they were satisfied with the proceedings of the English in seizing Armenian goods on board ship.

The Board is of opinion that we ought to acquaint the Armenians that in case the Company pays any thing occasioned by the complaint at the Durbar, if they do not consent to repay the same we shall after the expiration of two months withdraw from them the Company's protection and dismiss them the Town.

The Armenians were hereupon called in and acquainted therewith.

The Armenians alarmed at the threatened expulsion from Calcutta send in a petition to Government.

Humbly requesting you will be pleased to take our case again into consideration, and favor us once more with a hearing before you finally determine on the utter destruction of a people, who are ready and willing to give your Honor, &c., the utmost satisfaction in their power.*

45.—*Mahrattas expected to return next year.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 29.]

News of the Nabob arriving at Cuttack, the Mahrattas fled, the Nabob offered the Nabobship to Dalobram and M. Jaffier, who both refused. The Mahrattas are expected to return next year.

46.—*The English fined by the Nawab.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 31.]

The English trade being stopped and the factory at Cossimbazar surrounded with troops by the Nawab owing to the dispute with the Armenians the English try through the Seets to propitiate him, but his two favorities demand a large sum of money Rs. 30,000 for themselves and 4 lakhs for the Nawab, at last after much negotiation the Armenians expressing themselves satisfied the Nawab becomes reconciled, but the English got off after paying to the Nawab through the Seets 12,00,000 Rupees.

* The President in Council explained that he only threatened them that in case they refused to sign they deserved to be turned out.—*Ed.*

47.—*The President has no control over King's ships.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER.]

A complaint of the French that their ships were boarded off Barnagar by troops from King's ships, the President replies that he regrets he has no control over King's ships.

48.—*The Mahrattas down the river.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 21.]

Received a letter from Captain George Minchin dated the 19th instant from Dean's town* importing thaat he should distress the Mahrattas to the utmost of his power as he looked on the sloops to be in a state of defence sufficient to secure the men from the shot of the Mahrattas, he intended to bring them in close to the shore, and that he apprehended he will be able to distress them greatly if not entirely destroy them.†

49.—*Madeira for the supply of the Company's servants.*

[DESPATCHES TO COURT, JANUARY 13.]

We are to request your Honors will favor us the ensuing year with a consignment of at least three hundred pipes of Madeira.

50.—*Advances required by Native Merchants.*

[DESPATCHES TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 54.]

Your Honors, in the nineteenth paragraph of your orders of the 27th January, complain that there are several sortments of goods ordered in the lists of investments for some years past which have not been sent you. The reasons for not complying with your orders herein, were, that the merchants refused to contract for them without a large advance therein.

51.—*The Mahrattas plundering near Balasore.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 42.]

We advised your Honors in our address of the 10th August of the Mahrattas' return into these parts, and it gives us the utmost concern to acquaint you that they still continue plundering all over the country

* Dean's town must have been somewhere near Diamond Harbor.

† After firing 13 shot and 17 shells at them they desired a parley.

and in a letter from Mr. Kelsall at Balasore, under date the 17th October, he acquainted us that they were encamped within sight of that factory, with Meezaleib and Moansing, and that the rear guard consisting of Pattans was expected to arrive that day and altogether to form an army of forty thousand men.

Having frequent reports of several straggling parties of this banditti plundering about this place, we, on the 2nd November, ordered the zemindar to entertain one hundred buxeries and fifty pikemen over and above what were then in pay for the protection of the outskirts of your Honors' town.

52.—*The Calcutta drains surveyed "to make the settlement sweet and wholesome."*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 12.]

The same day we ordered the zemindar to survey the drains about the town and see what repairs they wanted, and lay his report with a calculate of the expense before us. He complied therewith the 15th November as by said report entered after our consultation of that day, when we ordered him to put the same in execution, as this was the most effectual method we could think of for making the settlement sweet and wholesome.

53.—*A legacy left to the Company by a Captain.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 121.]

We advised your Honors, under date the 10th January 1747, that Captain Edward Frederick Reade bequeathed you by his will a legacy of eight thousand Madras Rupees (8,000), which we received from his executors the 29th ultimo, on giving them an indemnification bond for the same.

54.—*Holwell appointed a Surgeon.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 128.]

In obedience to your commands of March 1742, we appointed Mr. John Zephaniah Holwell,* one of your Surgeons in this establishment, in the room of Doctor William Lindsay, who departed this life of a fever on the 29th of that month.

* Holwell was the great historian of the Black Hole and of its contemporary events in Calcutta.—*Ed.*

55.—*Writers to be kept constantly employed.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 131.]

The writers your Honors entertained on this establishment arrived here except Mr. Robert Lawrence, and have been stationed in your several offices according to their capacities; we assure your Honors those, as likewise all your other Servants, shall be kept constantly employed in their respective stations; and should any of them misbehave, we shall comply with your Honors' orders of the 29th March 1749 in regard thereto.

56.—*A Chaplain's son recommended as writer.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 133.]

At the request of Mr. Gervas Bellamy, Chaplain, we take the liberty to recommend to your Honors' favor his son John Bellamy to be instated in your Honors' service as a writer either at this Settlement, Fort St. David, or Bombay, any of which establishments, we humbly submit to your Honors' judgment for his reception.

57.—*Difficulties about the Armenians.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13, PARA. 150.]

We agreed to wait till we were favoured with your Honour's orders hereon, for should we proceed to oblige them (the Armenians) to pay the whole or part,* and in case of their refusal to comply to turn them out of the place, the French, as we have heard, would embrace the opportunity to give them a protection at Chandernagore, which would not only be greatly serviceable to those rivals in trade, but extremely prejudical to your Honour's revenues, inasmuch as you would thereby suffer by the loss of your duty of five per cent. arising from those Armenians' great importations of raw silk and other goods on the coast of Cormandell.

We are now to request your Honour's orders for making the Armenians who reside here pay consulage on their exports, and that you will favor us by pointing out what manner you would have us proceed in collecting this revenue arising thereon as we esteem it quite reasonable

* Of the money the English paid to the Nawab as a fine for seizing their goods on ship-board.—*Ed.*

that they should pay your Honours equally with your Covenanted Servants, free merchants, and others who live here under the protection of the English flag.

58.—*The Church steeple to be rebuilt.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 13.]

We are now to request your Honour's orders for re-building the Church Steeple which was thrown down in the storm.* The foundation for which being already laid we imagine the expense will not exceed eight thousand Rupees.

59.—*Gambling in Calcutta among Company's servants.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 25.]

We are extremely concerned to observe that your Honours should have an intimation given you that a spirit of gaming prevails against your servants here, and assure you that had we ever observed the least appearance of this vice we should have suppressed it in it infancy, your orders on this head shall be punctually observed if we shall hereafter find any of your servants guilty thereof, as we concur in opinion with your Honours that no trust or confidence can be placed in persons guilty of a vice so pernicious.

60.—*Weavers and the French at Jugdea.*

[DESPATCHES TO COURT, AUGUST 24, PARA. 59, 1750.]

Under date the 24th April they wrote us (from Jugdea) it would be impossible from the poverty of the people to take up money at interest in such a place as that at so small a premium as 9 per cent. that they had wrote to the gentlemen at Dacca on that head and represented to them the pernicious consequences to your Honors' affairs of suffering the weavers to leave the Aurungs for want of employment and giving the French an opportunity to deprive your Honors of the markets so.

61.—*Mahrattas near Murshedabad and Rajmahal.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 24, PARA. 64.]

The Gentlemen at Cossimbazar in a letter dated the 4th March advised us that the Nabob was encamped at Midnapore, and a body of

* This must have been the great storm of 1737. The Church was erected to the East of the Black Hole.—*Ed.*

several thousand Mahrattas had passed him and plundered the country as far as Rajmahal from whence they returned and were then within 12 or 15 coss of that place; and under date the 9th following they wrote us that Meerahib with twelve thousand Morattoes was within two coss of Muxadavad and had a skirmish with Meer Jaffir's forces in which they obliged them to retreat nearer the city. That the two armies were then encamped near each other, and the Morattoes were daily sending out parties to burn and plunder all around them.*

62.—*A case of* 20 *Rupees referred home.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 24, PARA. 116.]

On the 1st instant the Warehouse-keeper reported to the Board that the treasure per *Lyn* was landed, and that there was a deficiency of forty-five Rupees, which being demanded of Captain Egerton, he paid twenty-five Rupees thereof into your Honor's Treasury which he told us fell out of one of the chests as they were putting it into the long boat, and as the chests were extremely bad he desired that the difference twenty Rupees might be referred Home to be settled by your Honers and his Owners which we agreed to.

63.—*Case of a stitched Counterpane or Razae.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 24, PARA. 126.]

We have directed our Secretary to endeavor to find out the person to whom the stitched counterpane which was sent home in the Packet per *Bombay Castle* belonged, in order to reprimand him as likewise to take all the care in his power to prevent the like practices in future.†

64.—*Blacks prohibited dealing with the French.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 4, PARA. 62, 1751.]

Having received information that some Blacks residing in this town were dealing with the French for goods proper for the Europe market, we told them if we found any proofs against any residing under your Honor's protection that such should suffer our utmost displeasure.

* In the previous March Murshedabad was surrounded by Mahrattas who stopped the trade and hindered Mr. Eyles from going to Kasimbar.—*Ed.*

† There are no consultations for 1750 in the Calcutta Offices, the only local document is a river survey.—*Ed.*

65.—*The Nawab demands the surrender of a smuggler from the Governor of Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 30.]

TO THE HON'BLE A. DAWSON, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL.

I have heard that Ramkissen Seat who lives in Calcutta has carried goods to that place without paying the Muxidavad Syre Chowkey duties; I am greatly surprised and imagine he stands in no fear of any body, for which reason I write you and send a Chubdar to bring him and desire you will be speedy in delivering him over, as he may be soon here; be expeditious and act exactly as I have wrote.*

ALLYVERDI CAWN.

MUXIDAVAD,
20*th May* 1751.

66.—*The French in Tellichery overrunning the Country.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 22.]

In a letter from Fort St. Davids, the Governor states:

That as the disturbances in the country still subsists the only manner left them to prevent the French from overrunning it is the collecting so large a Force as possible.

67.—*An organ for the Calcutta Church devoured by white ants.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 12.]

In obedience to our Hon'ble Masters, concerning the Organ, we sent for the Reverend Mr. Bellamy who declared that when Mr. Frankland applied to him for it, that he told him that it was not in his power to give it, but wished it was removed from thence as Mr. Pearson informed him it was eaten up by the white ants, and the Church might be endangered by keeping it there. He further added that in the gallery where it stood the marks of the white ants are to be seen to this day.†

Mr. Frankland being called before us avouched the truth of what Mr. Bellamy said and declared that being desirous of taking the dimensions of the several parts of that organ, in order to complete one he

* To this the President replied that Set's father and grandfather were all the Company's dadney merchants, and that he is a great debtor of the Company's he could not therefore surrender him.

† The Church referred to here stood at the west end of the Writer's Buildings, the steeple fell in the earthquake and hurricane of 1737, and the Church itself was destroyed in 1756 by the Moors at the capture of Calcutta. The Armenian Church near it was only plundered and still stands after 144 years.—*Ed.*

was trying to have made at that time, was the reason of his applying to Messrs. Bellamy and Wynch to let him remove those parts of it which there might still remain sufficient to take the dimension, but on Mr. Bellamy's telling him it was out of his power to give it, he sent his Carpenter to the Church to take the Dimensions when on their touching any part thereof it immediately fell to pieces. The white ants having left nothing but the outside. That all that remained of the Organ were a few broken metal pipes and some of the Ornamental parts with the glass Doors which were not entirely destroyed as they were made of Teak, and declares that so far from having an Organ, Shortly after that on finding he could not accomplish one, he laid aside all thoughts of it till a Gentleman who came from England near three years after offered to assist him in finishing it.*

68.—*The Nawab's letter about the Germans.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 19.]

TO THE FIRST OF MERCHANTS MY FRIEND MR. DAWSON.

MY FRIEND,—I have heard from Hooghly some time past news that Mr. Acton and Mr. Mills, both English under the protection of the Germans, are coming with three ships of war that hoist German colors from the Franks country to Hooghly, and design to lay in the road, to stop the river and seize the Musselmen ships; on this account I have already sent Perwannahs to you and the other European nations which by this time must be arrived with you, since which I have received your arrived act by which I find my intelligence is true; but what you will, that the company have ordered you not to make war in these parts with any European nation is very wrong, for in time past in Sujah Cawn's time, the English and Dutch chiefs both entered into methods for destroying the German chief and engaged him to join with you, on which account the German chief absconded; now you will write me so different a story, it is not right or reasonable. If the Germans come here, it will be very bad for all the European, but for you the worst of all, and you will afterwards repent it, and I shall be obliged to stop all your trade and business, and shall get an order from the king for so doing. It will be proper for you now to consider of your trade from Patna and Bengal how if these troubles happen, you are to carry it on; therefore, take care

* The Organ had been presented by Mr. Eyre; the inhabitants subsequently purchased by subscription a very fine Organ which they presented to the Church. This question of the organ appears the only business on the books in the Consultations for August 12th when the President and eight Members were present.—*Ed.*

that these German ships do not come into the road or stop the way; do you act in such a way, and such a manner as to punish them before they arrived in the road.*

69.—*Dearness of rice in Calcutta; duty remitted.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 9.]

The poor inhabitants of this town daily crying out to us concerning the great distress and want they labor under, and our merchants and others representing to us it is owing to the dearness of rice and oil; *agreed* that the annual duties taxed on those two articles, amounting to near Rs. 500, be forgiven this year, and that the zemindar do give public notice thereof.†

70.—*Advances not paid up at Kasimbazar.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 9.]

The Worshipful W. Fytche, Chief of Council, in a letter from Kassimbazar states:—

The arrival of Hossein Nordy Caun, the Dacca Nabab at Muxadabad and that the balance due to the Company of Rs. 1,79,211-9-6 from sundry merchants, from the year 1744 to 1747, may be esteemed on the whole almost as bad debts; not more than Rs. 25,657-2-9 having been recovered accounts on those balances.‡

71.—*The dearness of raw silk owing to Mahratta invasions.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 9.]

A letter from Kassimbazar states:—The dearness of raw silk and silk piece goods for some years past, they find, is owing to the Mahrattas constantly entering Bengal, plundering and burning the people's houses, and destroying the chief Aurungs from whence the workmen have fled to distant parts, and not to any malpractice in the gentlemen there.

* To this, the Hon'ble A. Dawson, the President in Council, replied, 19th August 1751, "that he had given orders to the pilots not to take charge of any of the Alleman ships or show them the way on any account, and do not doubt but that the Dutch and French have done the same. God forbid that they should come this way, but should this be the case, I am in hopes that through your uprightness they will be either sunk, broke, or destroyed." The President ordered the pilots "on no account to take charge of or show the way to any Alleman."

† Holwell who was Zemindar at this time was opposed to the remission of duty on the ground that the money would go not to the poor but to the dealers.—*Ed.*

‡ The most of these merchants had died or had run away, and those remaining were too poor to pay up, some had embezzled the property.—*Ed.*

72.—*The Mahrattas near Balasore.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 4, PARA. 96.]

Mr. Henry Kelsall, Resident at Bulramgurry, informed us that the disturbances of the country occasioned by the return of the Marattoes this season has prevented him from being able to purchase any ready money goods as the weavers or greatest part of them have been obliged to abscond.*

73.—*The Nawab receives the estate of a Turk dying intestate.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 20, PARA. 97.]

We acquainted your Honour's Anno.† 174 that we had received into the treasury the estate of Hajee Salins, a Turk who departed this life intestate, which the Nawab has since claimed as he died in this country, and none of his relations ever appeared or sent to demand it; the gentlemen at Cossimbazaar giving us to understand that, unless we complied therewith, the Nawab would order forces on their factory, which would have been attended with further expense to your Honours. We empowered them to pay him, which sum being Arcot Rs. 5,092-1-9, they discharged as advised of the 8th ultimo, when the Nawab demanding interest thereon, they represented that the money was always ready and might have been received sooner if applied for, and compounded at last for Arcot Rs. 480-4-3, a much less sum than the interest for so many years had he insisted on receiving it agreeable to our orders thereon; they got a receipt from the Nawab, and transmitted a copy thereof to us.

74.—*French Factory at Kasimbazar surrounded by the Nawab's Troops.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 20, PARA. 98.]

Under date the 11th May, the gentlemen at Cossimbazaar wrote us that the Nawab had surrounded the French factory with his forces for some time and stopped their business at all their settlements on account of a dispute with the Durbar, which, as they were informed, was accommodated for 50,000 Sicca Rupees.

* The pilot sloop was wrecked at this time near Injele, the crew landed, but the Mahratta horse came down from their camp 4 miles distant and plundered them and the sloop.

† Sic. in orig.

75.—*Jungle near Calcutta used for burning bricks.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 20, PARA. 107.]

We have directed the Zemindar to cut down all the old trees and underwood in and about the town, and reserve them till Mr. Robbins'* arrival, as we judged this would be a great saving to your Honors in the article of firewood for burning bricks.

76.—*The Armenians to pay consulage.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 20, PARA. 109.]

In obedience to your orders in the 45th paragraph of your Honors' commands per *Hardwicke*, we acquainted the Armenians that they must pay consulage on their exports equally with the covenanted servants, and affixed public orders at our fort gates forbidding all persons within your Honors' limits to export any goods from Calcutta without a permit from the Consulage Collector under pain of having such goods confiscated.

77.—*Enquiry about the treatment of passengers.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 28, PARA. 116.]

Mr. Walter Stainforth whom your Honors entertained as a writer in your service, arrived here from Fort St. David's the 15th July, when we stationed him in the Cottah, and Messrs. Johnstone and Sykes who took their passage on the *Scarborough* on their arrival were asked how Captain D'Auvergne treated them on the passage, to which they replied, extremely well; the former we have stationed in the Accountant's Office, and the latter in the Secretary's.

78.—*The Mahrattas stop trade by plundering and burning.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 2, 1752, PARA. 49.]

In obedience to your Honors' orders for transmitting you the reasons of the high price of raw silk for some years past, we directed the gentlemen at Cossimbazar to make strict enquiry into the reasons thereof, who informed us it was owing to the Mahrattas constantly

* Mr. Robbins was sent out to complete the fortifications which the Court were very anxious about, as they apprehended an attack; while in Calcutta they had scarcely a gun mounted or a carriage to mount it on.—*Ed.*

entering Bengal, plundering and burning the people's houses, and destroying the chief Aurungs from whence the workmen have fled to distant parts, and not to any malpractice in the gentlemen there.

79.—*Price of rice lowered by Government.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 2, PARA. 61.]

The Jemindar informing us on the 20th September, that the poor were greatly oppressed by the dearness of rice, we directed him to give public notice in all the market places that no person should exact higher prices than hereafter specified under a severe penalty :—

For good November bund rice 35 seers per a Rupee.

Ordinary rice 1 maund 10 „ „

80.—*Coolies' wages raised on account of the dearness of rice.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 2, PARA. 63.]

On the 9th November, [1751] as the poor inhabitants of this town were daily crying out to us concerning the great distress and want they labored under, and our merchants representing to us it was owing to the dearness of rice and oil, we agreed to remit them the annual duty levied on these two articles, amounting to near 500 Rupees for the present year, and on the 15th following we raised the coolies' wages to 2 pun 12 gundas of cowries per day on account of the scarcity and dearness of rice and other provisions.

81.—*Only* 200 *firelocks in store in Calcutta.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 16, PARA. 6.]

It was entirely out of our power to send them at Fort St. David's any fire-arms, as we have not more in our military stores than 200 firelocks fit for service, exclusive of the arms of this detachment.*

* They sent however 201 soldiers, "as this part of Bengal is quite settled at present, and there being no appearance of any immediate troubles." The soldiers refused to embark without receiving a bounty of 20 rupees a man, as was paid some time ago to the parties sent to Bombay and some to the Coast. "We have been obliged to comply for want of barracks to keep them under better regulation and prevent their desorting."—*Ed.*

82.—*A prisoner fled from the Calcutta bounds to Baranagar.**

[DESPATCH TO COURT, 17TH FEBRUARY, PARA. 7.]

In our last address we acquainted your Honours, we had sent a guard after Simon Loake with an intention to send him home on the *Hardwicke*, but the Sergeant reported to us that he escaped our bounds, and was at Baranager, where he has taken the protection of the Dutch flag, and should he return, we shall certainly put your Honours' orders in execution.

83.—*Stills to be sent out to an arrack farmer.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 17, PARA. 12.]

Mr. John Knox, who purchased your Honours' arrack farm, having petitioned us to request your Honours will send him two stills of 400 gallons each with three worms of a size proportionable thereto, and being willing to pay 25 per cent. on the prime cost thereof, we enclosed send your Honours his petition, as we think his request reasonable.†

84.—*The country cotton almost destroyed by the heavy rains of April* 1751.

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 23, PARA. 7.]

The Cossimbazaar merchants having fallen short in several articles of their investment, particularly gurrahs, plain taffaties, ordinary bandannoes, and chappas, assured the gentlemen there that it was impossible for them to comply with their contracts for gurrahs, as that article rose considerably after they had contracted with them by reason the country cotton was almost destroyed by the heavy rains which fell in April, and the want of money through not advancing them according to agreement, by which they have been great sufferers, and disabled likewise from bringing in the full quantity of silk piece goods, and the remaining ordinary bandannoes and chappas being very bad, they did not bring them in as being unfit to be prized.

* A Dutch settlement 5 miles north of Calcutta, the Wapping of that day.—*Ed.*

† The Arrack was farmed subsequently for a year to Mr. Williams, for 9,212 Rs.

85.—*Ships not to come higher than Rogues' River.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 18, PARA. 11.]

On the receipt of your Honors' orders per *Dunnington* we sent for Captain Pinson* the Master Attendant and directed him to issue out fresh orders to the Pilots not to bring up any of your Honor's ships higher than Rogues' River,† which always has been our instructions, without a particular order from us.

86.—*Prices of gold coin vary, its causes.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 18, PARA. 35.]

In answer to the 25th paragraph of your Honor's commands of the 24th August to keep you advised of the price of gold as well in coin as bullion, we are to inform you that the prices of gold in coin vary here eight or ten per cent. and perhaps more than in any other country, as every tumult or suspicion thereof rising upon the death of a Nobab or any great minister near the King's person, frightens the subjects and puts them on purchasing gold in coin for the more easy conveying or secreting their wealth, so that we can only say at this juncture a gold mohur is found to be worth about 14 Arcot Rupees and a Venetian 4½ Arcot Rupees and all other gold coins in proportion.

87.—*Weavers and washermen run away.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 18, PARA. 80.]

Agaberker the Naib at Jugdea stopped your Honors' business at that Factory in the month of April last and insisted upon a present of Rs. 30,000 under pretence of not having received any thing from thence for six years, but by the letter the gentlemen at Cossimbazar procured at the proper Durbar at Muxadavad and which we forwarded to Jugdea, Messrs. Baillie and Playdell wrote us that the Nobab occasioned no further impediment to their business than the dread of his extortions which made several of their weavers and washermen run away.

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* He died soon after of dysentery.—*Ed.*

† To this place near Dimond Harbor the Government often despatched a Civilian to search whether ships had any articles of private trade on board.—*Ed.*

88.—*Military instructors appointed for the Militia.*

[DESPATCH FROM COURT, SEPTEMBER 18, PARA. 87.]

In obedience to your Honors' orders for forming a body of Militia Captain Commandant George Minchin proposes, as soon as the weather sets in a little more temperate, to fix and appoint proper Serjeants and Corporals out of the Military for instructing such of the inhabitants as are unacquainted with the manual exercise when we shall appoint officers to command them.

89.—*The President waits on Suraja Daula*—well received.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 18, PARA. 111.]

The Nobab Sarajee Doula whom Allivirde Cawn appointed to be his successor being arrived at Hughley where he was invited by the French and the Dutch Governors with a present equivalent to his dignity, and the President having received letters from the Phausdars and Ooja Wuzeed, the purport whereof is entered upon our consultation of the 31st August, from whence we judged it highly necessary to pay the Nabob the compliment required, and therefore agreed that the President should prepare himself accompanied by Messrs. Cruttenden, Beecher and the Commandant, and that a present should be made the Nobab that might prove satisfactory.†

This morning the President returned from the visit where he was received with the utmost politeness and distinction far superior than was paid the Dutch or French, and if these people's words are ever to be confided in, we flatter ourselves that the expense we have been at on this occasion has procured you great favor and will be the means of your Honor's business being conducted without any interruption from the Government for some time to come, and we beg leave to offer our sentiments that a greater intimacy well timed with the heads of the Government (not before practised) when opportunity offers either here or at the head subordinates may be greatly conducive to your Honor's interest at a small expence, for it is chiefly those about the Nabob who are in power that urge circumstances to our disadvantage and stir

* Appointed at this time successor to Ali Verdi Khan; on this visit he made great professions of friendship to the English.—*Ed.*

† See Consultations, October 23.

up his resentment and when any large sum is paid they receive the greatest share.*

90.—*The evils from Dulals' (native brokers) impositions.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 25.]

We received a letter from the gentlemen at Jugdea under date the 27th ultimo, advising that agreeable to what Mr. Baillie wrote as under date the 13th from Dacca, they applied there for a proper Deloll to prevent the continual inconvenience and impositions the Honorable Company's affairs suffer from the ruined circumstances of their Delolls; and as no Deloll of credit chooses without a removal of their Factory to undertake the management of its business, so they must again recommend this point to our consideration.†

91.—*Revenue expenditure.*

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 9.]

Among the items of Revenue for April this year and on the following are:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Ground rent...	1,917	2	0
Gain on cowries	75	1	3
Duties on Pottahs	70	0	0
Marriages	131	3	6
Sale of slaves	10	1	3
Weavers' ground rent	110	8	0
Sales of houses	256	13	9
Peons' fees	136	2	9
Salamy of bricks	379	2	6
Duties on liquor imported	37	4	0

* In the accounts of presents to Suraja Doula and his officers on their visit to Hugly are entered 35 gold mohurs, = Rs. 577; ready money Rs. 5,500; wax candles Rs. 1,100; a clock Rs. 880; looking glasses 2 pairs Rs. 550; 2 marble slabs Rs. 220; pistols 1 pair Rs. 110; a diamond ring Rs. 1,436; to Alliverde's wife and women 26 gold mohurs,= Rs. 429; fukiers Rs. 184; the Dutch Military servants Rs. 756; Phausdar of Hugly Rs. 770; the sum total in ready money amounted to Rs. 15,560. The President received in return a Seerpan and an elephant.—*Ed.*

† The Delolls about this time used to hold night meetings in Calcutta to arrange the prices they should charge the English for piece goods. They had a regular Trades Union.—*Ed.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
Verdure, fish pots, firewood	216	10	6
Market places	429	0	0
Ferry boats	14	0	0
Braminies	2	5	0
Rice for exportation	1,106	2	0
Servants' wages forfeited	223	0	0
Tobacco	12	8	0
Duty on salt	348	5	8
Bang shops	143	0	0
Burthened oxen	41	12	0
Squibs	3	0	0
Hog's butchery	1	1	6
Sum total including items as roads, glass-makers	9,729	0	0
The charges of collection amounted to* ...	2,481	0	0

The Bazars mentioned are Soba, Dobapara, Hautcula, Baug, Charles, Sam, New, Bagum, Gastholla, John Nagore.

A contract entered into for bricks 9 inches long, 3½ broad, 2¼ thick, at Rs. 3-10 a thousand.

Lascars' wages raised from Rs. 4 to 6 per mensem.

Govindram Mettre, Manager of the Revenue "dismissed for heavy frauds."†

For repairing the Dum-Dum and Baraset Roads, Rs. 20 granted.

Repairing Begum Bazar and Gastholah Roads at Govindpore Rs. 12-8 granted.

92.—*The President grants commissions.*

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 9.]

The President acquaints the Board that he has thought proper to grant the following commissions on the recommendation of the Captain Commandant: Lieutenant's commissions to Messrs. Kemp and Keen, and an Ensign's commission to Mr. Talbot on his promise of future good behaviour.

* The general charges amounted monthly to about Rs. 20,000; the President had Rs. 170 a month and Rs. 84 gratuity: a Chaplain Rs. 42 monthly, and Rs. 42 gratuity; a Doctor Rs. 30 monthly; but then they had very lucrative commissions on trade.—*Ed.*

† This was by Holwell, but the majority of the Council acquitted him; he had, however, to refund Rs. 3,397 embezzled by him.—*Ed.*

93.—*Black Merchants' Property under false passes.*

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 9.]

It appearing to us that some voyages have been set on foot from hence to different parts of India, and passes obtained under English names, when the property has at the same time chiefly appertained to the Black Merchants, inhabitants of this place; and as a proceeding of this nature may involve us with the Country Government by depriving them of their duties payable by the natives who carry on any trade exclusive of the Honorable Company's investment, *ordered* the real proprietors of goods should be stated.

94.—*Nawab's Perwannah in favor of the Company's trade.*

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 11.]

Nobob Aliverdi Khan's Perwannah arrived the 8th October 1752.*

Of all merchants the greatest and the picture of friendship, Mr. Drake, Governor of the English Company, whom God preserve.

By the favor of the Almighty the bright eyes and soul of Nabob Munsoor An Mullick, Bahaudur, arrived at Muxadavad on the 24th Secandar Son paunch; your friendship, praises, presents, and going to meet him, he has told me a great deal about so much that I cannot express it. I am extremely pleased and delighted with you and a thousand thousand times remain sensible of it, and in return by the grace of God the Company's business I will be very favorable to.

95.—*Sanitary Measures in the Hospital.*†

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 27.]

Mr. Plaisteed, Member of Council visiting in rotation the Hospital, reports:

The Doctors are of opinion that Tuckposts for every room, made to take out at pleasure, will be a great preservation, as all lower rooms are very damp.

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* There is another Perwannah addressed by Nawab Munsur Ali Mallek to Mr. Drake in the following style: "you are a great man, and that greatness becomes you, the head of all merchants, and the standard of merchants."—*Ed.*

† The Hospital was between the Old Fort and St. John's burial ground, very convenient for the latter place. Was it the one of which Hamilton wrote fifty years before—that many went in but few came out to give an account of their treatment.—*Ed.*

96.—*Tides in the Sunderbunds destroy a cargo boat.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 16.]

The Export Warehouse-keeper lays before the Board the abstract of the Dacca Invoices of Goods which were lost coming down from thence at Baratolla under the care of Serjeant Demi David, who being called before us and asked how the boat whereon those goods were laden was lost, informed us it was occasioned by the meeting of two tides in the mouth of the Rangafoula Creek which run so extremely strong that it was impossible for him, or any other of the boats in the fleet to give any assistance to the two soldiers who were on board her, and both were drowned.

97.—*Morning Parades.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 20.]

The new officers of the Militia, Colonel Cruttenden in command, commanded to attend on the parade on Monday, November 1752, by six of the clock in the morning.

98.—*Perrin's Garden.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 20.]

Perrin's Garden* being much out of repair and of no use to any of the Covenanted Servants, *agreed* to sell it at public out-cry on Monday, the 11th December next.

99.—*Rise of prices—Famine.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 20.]

To THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, &c. Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—Your Honour, &c., having called upon me to know the reason why the Company's Farms of the revenues sold so much higher this year than usual, I beg leave to remind your honour, &c., that the rice farms have been sold at outcry for many years past ever since the increase of the inhabitants of the town made

* Perrin's Garden seems to have been what the Eden Gardens are now—the promenade of Calcutta, but for Company's servants only; it was sold to Mr. Holwell for Rs. 2,500.—*Ed.*

the Revenues rise so much as they have done lately; therefore it is not possible for me to give a positive and certain answer to your question, as all things sold in that manner depend often upon peoples opinion of their worth being more than appears, and other reasons too long for me to enumerate here. But the reason of this sudden rise at present appears to me owing in the first and greatest parts to the Great Famine and scarcity of all kinds of necessaries of life that your Honour, &c., are sensible has been to the greatest degree this season, and what has not been known for these 60 years past, for it arose to so dreadful a degree that many of your inhabitants have perished within the town with hunger, a truth well known to every one. I humbly presume your Honour, &c., are acquainted that the duties here are levied on the gross sales, and these duties are mostly on the necessaries of life, the consumption of which must be nearly equal, let the price be what it will. If cloth is dear a poor man may put off the buying of a new coat until the price falls; but for victuals when hunger presses every one must buy if he has money to purchase it. Therefore it is plain if the consumption is pretty near equal at all times, that when the price is high the duties being so much per cent. on the gross sales, they must at that time amount to a much larger sum than when the sales from their cheapness did not produce so large a sum of money. But to explain this affair more to your Honour, &c., I take the liberty to subjoin hereto a calculation of the difference that the prices of grain, &c., necessaries will make in the duties which are farmed of the Zemindar.

		Md.	S.		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
1751,	October—Rice	1	32	per Rupee	1	4	0	Duty at 6 pice per Rupee	0	0	7½
1752,	„ „	1	16	„ „	2	8	0	„ „ „	0	1	3
1751,	„ Grain	1	0	„ „	1	0	0	„ „ „	0	0	6
1752,	„ „	1	12	„ „	3	5	6	„ „ „	0	1	3
1751,	„ Wheat	1	32	„ „	1	4	0	„ „ „	0	0	8
1752,	„ „	1	6	„ „	4	11	0	„ „ „	0	2	4
1751,	„ Flour	1	3	„ „	3	0	0	„ „ „	0	1	6
1752,	„ „	1	0	„ „	8	0	0	„ „ „	0	4	0
1751,	„ Oyl	1	0	„ „	5	0	0	„ „ „	0	2	6
1752,	„ „	1	0	„ „	11	0	0	„ „ „	0	5	6

By this account your Honour, &c. will observe the incredible dearness of many sorts of the necessaries of life within the month preceding the sales of the Farm, though the buyers might think their prices might not keep up for the whole ensuing year; yet from the present dearness and the bad prospect of the crops of grain from the great rains having overflowed the country enough to drown whatever was planted in the low grounds.

The purchasers of the Farms might with almost a certainty foresee great dearness likely to ensue. This I look upon as the greatest reason for the present rise of the Farms; besides which it is well known many of the head merchants brought large quantities of rice in the place for the use of their numerous families without paying any duties, as likewise others by custom of many years standing introduced large quantities into the town for exportation which till within a year past never paid any duties to the Farmers; and they being ordered to be taken off this last year will make very considerable increase of profit in the Farms.

CALCUTTA,
20*th November* 1752. } GOVINDRAM METRE.

100.—*Caution to those not attending the Militia.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 27.]

Several of the inhabitants of this town having absented themselves from attending the Militia agreeable to an order of Council:

Ordered the list of their names to be affixed at the Fort Gates, and a notice given in case of their non-attendance in future that they may expect to meet with proper resentment from the Board.

101.—*The time of the Mugs.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 4.]

Extract of a letter from Jugdea near Dacca, November 16:—

That as the time of the Mugs* draws nigh, they request us to order the Pinnace to be with them by the end of next month for the safe conveyance of their cloth and a chest of good powder with a Lanthorn or two.

102.—*Gun Carriages at Kasimbazar.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 4.]

The 30th ultimo we received a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbazar, dated the 25th, advising that they cannot get Gun Carriages made there, either so cheap or good as in Calcutta, all kind of artificers being employed by the Nobab, and iron work very dear.

* The Mugs were aborigines inhabiting the hills near Chittagong, like the Highlanders they levied their black mail in their annual raids, infested the Sunderbund Channels, and sometimes extended their piracies and plunderings as far as Budge Budge; the Portuguese were at times their partners in their forays which caused such terror that about 1760 a chain was put by the Calcutta Authorities across the river at the bottom of Garden Reach to prevent their vessels coming up.—*Ed.*

103—*Prices of Cotton and Rice risen—French competition.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 11.]

This morning we received a letter from the gentlemen at Dacca, dated the 4th instant, acknowledging the receipt of our remarks on the investment. That they never remembered such a list before, to which in obedience to our orders they now reply article by article, but beg leave to premise that they cannot any way conceive the musters of 1738 to be a fit standard for judging by them of the cloth sent us this year, as the copass or country cotton has not been for these two years past under nine or ten rupees, and the price of rice at the same time very dear. Whereas in 1738 the copass did not exceed two rupees to two rupees eight annas, and the rice very cheap, mostly two maunds twenty seers to three maunds for a rupee, to which may be added what is well known to all the purchasers of cloth that the price of all sorts of cloth have risen near thirty per cent; some more since the year 1738.

That they now labour there and have done for these two years past under the inconveniency of a French Factory continually emulating the Hon'ble Company's trade, and have advanced the price of all cloths, both coarse and fine, and obliged them to be less severe with their dalolls in pricing their cloth. They have frequently told them that they were quite indifferent at their ferreting or rejecting their cloth, being sure of disposing of it advantageously to the French, that they have been as strict in the examining their cloth as possible, and have returned great quantities, even considerably more than they have taken.

104.—*No leave without accounts settled.*

[COURT'S LETTERS AND THE CONSULTATIONS.]

Mr. Luke Scrafton requests permission to come for a short time from Dacca to Calcutta to recover his health.

Mr. Ransom, Master Attendant, refused leave to Europe until he settles his accounts, amounting to Rs. 50,000.

Letters to the Court generally conclude with Mr. ——— who despatches this ship will acquaint your Honour of her draught of water, we wish her a safe and speedy passage to your Honours, and are with the greatest respect may it please your Honours. Your most faithful, and most obedient humble servants.*

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* The Court's formula generally ended with "Your loving friends."

105.—*Captain Cooke's reasons for not taking Cowries on Board.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 11.]

The Export Ware-house-keeper, acquainting the Board that Captain Cooke had refused taking the cowries directed to be laden on the *Admiral Vernon,* Captain Cooke was now called in and asked his reasons why he refused lading the cowries on board his ship. He replied they were always attended with a prodigious loss by pilferage, &c., which his owners &c., were obliged to make good. That it kept the ship from being cleared many days after her cargo was unloaded, and that the Hon'ble Company by washing and picking them made them turn out being short in weight. These reasons put together rendered it rather prejudicial to his owners than advantageous, and therefore he did not choose to receive any on his ship. Our Hon'ble Masters having expressly directed ten tons of cowries to be laden on each of their ships homeward bound, we ordered the Secretary to prepare a protest against Captain Cooke for refusing to take any on board the *Admiral Vernon.*

106.—*Without a pass a free merchant in the condition of the meanest black fellow.**

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 15.]

John Wood, a free merchant, applies for a pass which, if refused him, he says "it will reduce a free merchant to the condition of a foreigner, or indeed of the meanest black fellow." Holwell remarked on it, "the foreign trade of the settlement is become much too general."

107.—*Not enough gun-powder for salutes to our Country Ships.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 22.]

Having but a small quantity of gun-powder in provision and esteeming the salutes of our own country ships expensive and unnecessary. *Resolved* that in future the Fort return no salutes to any of our own country ships.†

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* His vessel had a cargo for the Persian Gulph his request was therefore negatived.—*Ed.*

† The Government had spent much money on manufacturing gunpowder near Bag Bazar, but with little success.

108.—*Items of Expenditure in Tank Square and Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 1.]

Three Serjeants' Diets and Doobey's hire in cutting the trees of the road	89	7	3
To repairing the walks, clearing and repairing the tank in the Park, monthly	20	4	3*
For orange trees for the use of the Park	24	0	0
To the Mores employed for secret services	10	12	6
Plate	77	3	9
Govind Chand's Cat	0	0	9
For sale at public outcry of sundry effects belonging to Isury and Bovee, prostitutes, and Diaramsing, confiscated to the Company	539	4	3

109.—*Number of the Militia.*

[CONSULTATIONS.]

The Militia mustered 200 this year.

110.—*Mahratta devastations make food dear.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 1.]

Mr. McGuire writes from Balumghury—

Weavers at Balasore complain of the great scarcity of rice and provisions of all kinds occasioned by the devastations of the Mahrattas, who, 600 in number, after plundering Balasore had gone to the Nellegreen hills; several weavers have brought their looms into the factory, and the few who remain declare they shall be obliged to quit the place. Desires he will send him 1,500 or 2,000 maunds of rice on the Hon'ble Company's account.

111.—*Exorbitant Chowkey Exactions.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 5.]

Native cloth merchants complain of the detention of their goods by the exorbitant exactions of the chowkeys,† that what used formerly come down in ten days was now twenty days on its way.

* The ordinary monthly expense for this was about Rs. 10.

† Hukoom Beg, the Nawab's prime minister, had an interest in keeping up this abuse, though the English had the Mogul's Thirman allowing them a free trade without any duty or charge whatever the English had to give Hukeembee as a bribe.

112.—*Payment of Ground rent.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 30.]

The Hooghly Phousdar demanding the payment of the ground rent for 4 months from January, namely:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Sootaloota, Calcutta	325	0	0
Govindpore, Picar	70	0	0
Govindpore, Calcutta	33	0	0
Buxies	1	8	0

Agreed that the President do pay the same out of the cash.

113.—*Expenses of the Mayor's Court.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 3.]

	Rs.	A.	P.
To paid the trustees of the charity school for apartments for the records for 4 months, at Arcot Rs. 80 per month ...	120	0	0
Batta 8 per cent ...	9	9	6
	129	9	6
To paid for a piece of red taffaty for gowns for the Alderman	12	15	3*
To paid by order of court for copying a large book for the court's use	64	12	9
To paid for wax cloth	1	0	0
Velvet for the chair and cushion and making	37	4	3

114.—*Buxey's Minute about Artificers for the Negrais.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 3.]

The Buxey acquaints the Board he has been using his endeavours to get sundry artificers for the Negrais, but that at present he can't find any smiths, carpenters, caulkers, or stone-cutters willing to go on any

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* In the monthly expenses of the Mayor's Court, are—the Interpreter Rs. 20; 2 black Court Sergeants Rs. 2-4 each; 2 Peons Rs. 15 a month each; 2 European Court Sergeants 10 Rs. each; wax candles for 6 months Rs. 10; a Brahmin 3-4; a harry, *i. e.*, sweeper, Re. 1. There is an entry of 9 annas duty on law-suits per folio page which yielded about Rs. 1,600 annually.—*Ed.*

If a member elected Alderman refused to serve he was fined 50£ sterling.—*Ed.*

terms. Bricklayers and coolies have offered themselves on the following conditions. A bricklayer mistry, 14 Rupees per month, a mate Rs. 10, and the bricklayers Rs. 7, a head cooly Rs. 7, and other coolies, 4 Arcot Rs. per month. Besides which they insist on rice, dâll, ghee, and salt, daily to be allowed them. He begs leave to observe that he thinks these terms very exorbitant; but they are the lowest he has been able to reduce the people to. They at first insisted on much higher. Carpenters and caulkers he is informed may be procured likewise when the ships are all come in, but on what terms he can't ascertain at present.

115.—*Rating European houses in Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 26.]

The Board now took into consideration Mr. Holwell's letter delivered in last council day, requiring our orders touching the levying a duty of 5 per cent. on the sale of European houses; the converting the ground rent called Courie Mahull into sicca, and raising the half rent to whole rent. The houses belonging to Europeans and others in the White Town, sell from ten to twelve thousand rupees, each house bearing upper rooms, and the repairs thereof are yearly so large as to afford little advantage to the proprietors.

116.—*A pilot's wife's petition.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 14.]

Mary Hambleton petitions for a pension on the grounds of being reduced to the greatest streights "that her deceased husband was a Lieutenant and herself a Protestant and an Englishman's daughter."

117.—*A writer interrogated on his treatment by the Captain.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 30.]

Mr. Hugh Watts, a writer in the Hon'ble Company's Service, and who came out on the ship "Portfield" being arrived in town, was sent for and asked how he was treated by his Captain. He replied very well.* *Agreed* he be stationed as an Assistant at Cossimbazar.

* There are no complaints entered on the Records against Captains for ill treatment of passengers in ordinary cases the reply of the passenger is "extremely well," but the passage money was high, 2,000 Arcot Rupees for a return passage.—*Ed.*

118.—*The violence done the Ship* "Mary."

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 30.]

Mr. Holwell is of opinion that the honor of this Presidency has been highly insulted in the violence done the ship "Mary" by depriving her of her pass and imprisoning without any just cause or legal right, the ship and cargo, her Captain and super-cargoes, to the irreparable damage of her owners—a proceeding whereby in the like case every member of this Settlement may be reduced to ruin and beggary.

119.—*The Corporation elect an Alderman and fine him.**

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 16.]

MAYOR'S COURT LETTER.

The Secretary presents a letter to the Board from the Mayor's Court which, on being read, was found to contain their proceedings in having elected Mr. Auryall an Alderman and fining him the sum of £ ST. 50, for not giving any answer to their notification. *Approved* of their having fined Mr. *Auryall* for not serving.

120.—*Members of Mayor's Court elected by Corporation.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 6.]

The Corporation now waited on the Board and acquainted them, they had as His Majesty's late Charter directed, elected two of their Members (Messrs. William Nixon and Bartholomew Plaisted) to be returned to them for their choice of one of them to be sworn into the office of Mayor. *Agreed* Mr. Plaisted be sworn into the office of Mayor.†

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* This year 12 Commissioner's to the Court of Requests were appointed. A new charter was received and was promulged in the Great Hall of the Fort, and affixed at public places in the several languages. The interpreter had a salary of Rs. 8 monthly, a tax of 5 per cent. on all suits determined was levied to defray expenses; the Commissioners raised the interpreter's salary to Rs. 20.—*Ed.*

† The wives and families in Calcutta were allowed one-fourth their husbands' wages as subsistence allowance.—*Ed.*

121.—*Rise in the price of fire-wood.*

Fire-wood risen from 10 to Rs. 20 for 100 maunds. The farmer of assnell reports that the sale of assnell to the poor laboring people has fallen from 120 maunds per day to 30 maunds owing to the rise in price of jaggery, rice, &c.

122.—*Free merchants lending their names to Natives.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, JANUARY 15.]

A Free Merchant applies for a pass to allow him to trade to India.

We now beg leave to represent to your Honors the great prejudice such a liberty would be to the place in general, for if it be permitted: a free merchant by lending his name without any capital of his own and by the assistance and concern of the natives, he may always set voyages on foot to the utter destruction of the trade of this Settlement in general, and a certain injury to every gentleman in the service.*

123.—*Attorneys disobedient to Government to be sent home.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 48.]

We have signified to the Mayor's Court your Honors' orders relative to them, and have directed that no attorneys of that Court presume to undertake any suit against a subject of the Moguls not residing under our protection, and that if they do in future affile any bill, contrary to those orders, we have given them public notice we shall send them home,† which proceeding of ours we hope will meet your Honors' approbation, as it is calculated to prevent your being embroiled in any disputes with the Country Government.

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* At this period a ship in the Portuguese fleet had been fallen in with by the Commodore sailing without hoisting any colors, she was seized and found to be an English ship from Calcutta sailing without a pass.—*Ed.*

† At this time the Council "ordered the Secretary to remind Messrs. Kempe and Goddard to prepare themselves to proceed to Europe on the first ship, as we cannot permit their stay in India any longer."

124.—*Loose handwriting in the Secretary's Office.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 69.]

We have acquainted our Secretary and Accountant with your Honors' remark on the loose hand the business of their Offices is wrote in, and directed 'em to be in future more careful in that particular which they have promised to comply with.

125.—*A Mint to be in Calcutta in spite of Jagat Set.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 12.]

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake, Esq.

Hon'ble Sir,—As the directions to the Hon'ble the President and Council from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for the establishment of a mint in Calcutta require the utmost secrecy, I have been obliged to use the greatest caution in the affair, but by all the distant enquiries I could make it would be unpracticable to effect it with the Nabob, as an attempt of that kind would be immediately overset by Juggut Set even at the expense of a much larger sum than what our Hon'ble Masters allow us to pay. He being the sole purchaser of all the Bullion that is imported in this province by which he is annually a very considerable gainer.*

However, that no means might be left unessayed to get so beneficial a privilege for our Hon'ble Masters, I have at last ventured to entrust and consult our vaqueel, who is of the same opinion that it is impossible to effect it here, but said his Master Hackem Beg had a son in great power at Delhie, who might be able to get us a Phirmaund from the King; but that this would be attended at least with the expense of one hundred thousand Rupees, and that on the arrival of the Phirmaund here it would cost another hundred thousand Rupees to the Mutsuddys and Dewans of the Nawab to put that Phirmaund in force, and that this affair must be carried on with the greatest secrecy, that Juggut Set's house might not have the least intimation of it, but I much question whether we could get the mint for any sum with so extensive a privilege as our Hon'ble Masters want.

Cossimbazar,
Dated 8th Feby., 1753.

I am, &c.,
(Sd.) WILLIAM WATTS.

* It was only a combined representation of the English, Dutch and French to the Nawab, which gained permission for their bullion and rupees to pass current. Rayentchunc, the Nawab's Dewan, having ordered all to be sent to Murshidabad or be disposed of to Jagat Set.—*Ed.*

126.—*A Captain refuses mangoes as a cargo.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 11.]

Mr. Holwell informing the Board that Captain Edmund Cooke, refused to receive four small casks of mangoes sent as a present from Mr. Watts, to his friends, though he had given a permit for them. *Ordered* the Secretary to direct Captain Cooke to receive them on board.

127.—*The Country about Luckepur.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 17.]

A factory to be built at Luckepur;* the country about is almost entirely uncultivated.

128.—*Phausdar of Jugdea's tyranny to the Company.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 1.]

Letter from Mr. Baillie, Jugdea, January the 21 :—

That having attempted that day to begin his removal from Jugdea, the Fowsdar of that place gave public orders that none of their servants should give them the least assistance in transporting the Hon'ble Company's effects; and this independently of severely fining them and their families in case of disobedience. He therefore requests we would apply to the Durbar for a Perwanah to empower them to remove and likewise procure a Sowar to be sent on the Fowsdar there. *Agreed* we comply therewith; *ordered* his letter to be entered after this consultation.

129.—*Mr. Mapletoft's Petition for the Charity Boys.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 4, 1754.]

The Reverend Robert Mapletoft sends in a petition to the Board that we would allow some ordinary Cloth and Stationery for the use of the Charity Boys. *Agreed,* we comply therewith.

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* Luckepur lay to the south-east of Dacca, near a district reduced to jungle by Portuguese and Mug pirates as well as periodical cyclones and floods. The factory was at Jugdea to the west of Lukipur, and the Thanidar of Judgea was so opposed to its removal, that he prohibited any of the servants giving assistance to remove the Hon'ble Company's effects The Nawab got Rs. 70,000 for granting parwannas to natives to trade at Jugdea.—*Ed.*

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake, Esq., *President and Governor of Fort William, &c., Council.*

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—Being requested by the Trustees of the Charity Stock of this place to make an humble application to you for an order that the children upon the Foundation to the number of 12 and 14 may be supplied at the expense of the Honorable Company with a coat of blue Perpets or some ordinary cloth; as also with Stationery for the use of the School, I take the liberty of laying it before you, humbly hoping that your Honour, &c., Council will comply with it, as we have lately endeavoured to increase the stock by a fresh contribution and made some further regulations for the more effectually carrying into execution the original design, which was to educate children in the Protestant Religion and keep them so when they had got from under the Masters care. A design which has hitherto been frustrated for want of taking proper obligations from their Parents or Guardians at the time of their admission; the inconvenience of which we have now provided against. We flatter ourselves this application will not appear unreasonable to you as it must be very evident that children well educated and instructed in the English language and accounts, may hereafter be of great service not only to the Gentlemen of that place, but also to the Honorable Company also.

I am with great respect Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,

R. MAPLETOFT.

Calcutta,
The 4th February 1754.

130.—*Armenians and Portuguese threatened with expulsion.**

[consultations, may 6.]

That all Europeans, Armenians, and Portuguese inhabitants be forbid accepting of any assignments or endorsements of bonds, notes, or debts, due from one Indian native to another, in order to prosecute the same in His Majesty's Courts of Record for and in behalf of the Assigner and Endorser of such bonds, notes, or debts, under pain of feeling our severest resentment. That those in the Company's

* See Despatch to Court, September 9, para. 40.

service shall be suspended for a disobedience hereto and other Europeans, (whether free merchants or living here without a license) shall be immediately sent home. Armenians and Portuguese inhabitants to be turned out of the bounds or punished in such a manner as we may think proper. *Ordered* the Secretary to draw up an advertisement to that effect, and affix the same at the two factory gates.

131.—*Rascality of Dulols.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 6.]

Mr. Baillie at Jugdea accused by these villains our dulols who carried on for a long time their most flagrant rascality. The Dulols at Jugdea found to charge the Company 15 per cent. beyond the price of the goods.*

132.—*The rice merchants allowed to export.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 10.]

The rice merchants in Calcutta allowed to export rice, as it is selling, the finer sort 32½ seers for the rupee, and the coarse 40 seers; and there is now 200,000 maunds of rice unsold in the settlements, and a prospect of a good crop.†

133.—*Pariar Arrack destructive to seamen.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 20.]

TO THE HON'BLE R. DRAKE, *President.*

I am very sorry to acquaint you, Sirs, that as I have a great number of my people down with Fluxes, I should be very glad to have your order to bring the ship up to Calcutta after having lightened at Culpee, as that is not only a much convenienter place for her to lie in, but much

* They charged it as *dustory* which they maintained was always customary. They made a charge against the Europeans of appropriating public money under the name of commission for themselves and Mr. Baillie had in consequence to refund to Government Rs. 18,000 received in that way. At that period a cash-keeper who had to give heavy security had a salary of Rs. 5 a month.—*Ed.*

† The import duty on grain yielded for the 6 years preceding October 1753 = 18,979 Rupees.

more healthy for the people than the other; especially as they cannot here have the opportunity of intoxicating and killing themselves with *Pariar Arrack* generally fatal to the healthy, but would be much more so to people already so bad as most of them are.

EDWARD WARD.

Ship York, 18th August 1754.

134.—*Eleven lascars murdered an English Captain at sea.**

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 30.]

The Council dreaded a war with the Nawab, should they hang Musulmans, they referred the matter to the Court, meantime detaining the alleged culprits in prison "to be producable at any time if sickness do not take them out of the world."

135.—*Present made the Nawab and Phausdar of Hugly.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 20.]

The Hon'ble Company having directed a good understanding to be kept up with the Officers of the Durbar, and as we are of opinion a Present bestowed at this juncture would be of great service to the Company's affairs in preventing the Durbar from making use of any frivolous pretence for a stoppage of our business.

Agreed, we send the Nawab a present of a Persia Horse and some fine wax work, also to the Fousdar of Hoogly and his Duan Nundoo Coomarry.

The Hon'ble Company's Horses being both dead, and two being offered for 2,500A. Rupees, *agreed,* we purchase them and that the President do pay for the same out of the Cash.

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* The officers and crew had killed the Captain on account of his bad usage of them. Two of the lascars, who were Christians, were tried by a Court of Admiralty in Calcutta, condemned and executed. The Musalmans were also condemned, but the English Authorities dared not execute them, as the Nawab did not allow Musalmans to be punished according to the laws of England.—*Ed.*

136.—*Annual survey of the river, change of names of places.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 20.]

Regular annual surveys of the river are sent in; places mentioned, such as Fisherman's Creek, Hangman's point, Mingo Bibby's Creek, Deans Town, Dover, Rogue's river,* where are they?

137.—*The Nawab of Dacca demands a costly visit.*

[DESPATCH TO THE COURT, MARCH 1.]

Rajaballab becoming Nawab of Dacca peremptorily demanded the usual visit from the three nations, the French compounded it for Rs. 4,300, the English did the same rather than have the trade stopped.

138.—*No pilots to take charge of German ships.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 6, PARA. 11.]

We have punctually obeyed your Honors' orders in relation to the ships expected here from Embden, and have positively forbid all Pilots, Masters and Mates taking any charge of such ships or any other not belonging to powers already established in India. We have likewise made application to the Agents of the French and Dutch Companys to concur with us both in orders to their Pilots to the same effect as we have given, and in preventing their making a settlement in India, to which they have returned us very favorable answers, and we assure your Honors nothing shall be wanting on our part to put any obstacle we can devise in their way.

139.—*Similia in Calcutta rented to Government.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, DECEMBER 8, PARA. 127.]

On the 8th August Mr. Holwell in a letter to the Board informed us he had been at some pains to prevail upon the Proprietors of a spot of ground called Similia to rent it to your Honors for the sum of Rs. 2,281,

* Officials used to be sent to this river from Calcutta to search vessels for any articles of private trade.—*Ed.*

which he required our permission to take on your account as the situation (being a part of Calcutta in a manner itself) had many advantages and its revenues yielded in its present management more than the sum we should pay, and he did not doubt would produce considerably more when in our hands. We have accordingly given him leave to take possession. But as there are since contested claims to the ground, we have not as yet been able to settle it, but when we do we shall duly advise your Honors.*

140.—*Assistants in office to be kept strictly employed and attend Church.*

[DESPATCH TO THE COURT, DECEMBER 7, PARA. 143.]

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 22.]

The several writers this season sent up by your Honors are arrived, and upon being asked how they were treated by the respective Commanders they came out with, replied extremely well. They have been stationed in the offices mentioned opposite to their names in the list of servants transmitted in this ship's Packet, and we shall take care that not only they, but all your junior servants at this Presidency be kept strictly employed. For which end we have *ordered* the heads of our several Offices to insist on their assistants attending their business from nine to twelve in the forenoon and in the afternoon and evening where occasion requires.

Agreed that the servants, covenanted and military officers be advised of the Company's orders with relation to their due attendance at Church and required to give due obedience thereto.

Agreed "that the covenanted servants be in future recommended to a frugal manner of living and attend the several offices from 9 to 12 in the morning, and in the afternoon when occasion be that our business may be more punctually carried on."

* The Government obtained a patta from Rasid Mallik and Narwaje Mallik, Zemindars of those districts, but Raja Kissen Chand took possession of Tangara, claiming that it was sold to him by Narwaje Mallik, but it was proved on investigation that the bill of sale was on paper made only 9 months before, whereas the seal was that of Narwaje Mallik who was dead 15 years; there were other spurious claimants also.

Similia and Pagla Danga contained about 2,245 bighas, besides 116 bighas appropriated to Bramins and religions it was in extent one-third of the possessions purchased for the Company who secured it at a rent and ground rent of 4,961 Sicca Rupees.

141.—*Palankeens to be allowed writers only in the hot and rainy season.*

[DESPATCH TO THE COURT, DECEMBER 7, PARA. 144.]

In consequence of your Honors' commands contained in the 86th paragraph of your letter under date the 23rd January 1754, we signified to the Writers in your service that we expected they should conform to those orders and particularly lay aside the expense of either horse, chair, or Palankeen during their Writership. Your Honors will observe they addressed the Board on the 4th November to be indulged in keeping a Palankeen for such months of the year as the excessive heats and violent rains make it impossible to go on foot without the utmost hazard of their health, which would be subjected to many kinds of sickness were they obliged to disuse their Palankeens. We have complied with their request and indulged them in the use of the Palankeen for those months, as we are very sensible it would endanger many of their lives were we to insist upon your orders being strictly agreed to the whole year round, and we beg leave to recommend this representation of them to your Honors' consideration.

142.—*The accomplishment of writing, accounts, French.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, DECEMBER 7, PARA. 146.]

Mr. George Gray, Senior Surgeon at our Settlement, has requested our recommending his son to be entertained in your Honors' employ at this establishment, and as that young gentleman has been regularly bred to writing, accounts, French, and other accomplishments, we hope your Honors will be pleased to acquiesce with his request in consideration of his long services.

143.—*Cooley families in Negrais advanced 5 Rupees.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 6.]

The Families of the Coolies sent to the Negrais complain that Mr. Brook has paid to the Head Cooley what money those who died there left behind them, which has not been transmitted here, on which account they have nothing to subsist on.

Agreed, therefore they be allowed Rs. 5 each.

144.—*Fortifications at Bag Bazar.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 13.]

Messrs. Wells and Drake now send in their account Expenses of the Fortifications at Bagbazar for the Month of December 1754, amounting to M. Rs. 338-6-9. *Agreed,* the President to pay the same out of the cash.*

145.— *The Nawab must have a present or a visit.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 12.]

A letter from Dacca states—

That Rajabullub has been very pressing with them for the visit; that they had sent their Duan and Head Vakeel to him to give for answer that they neither could nor would make any visit till the French and Dutch had made theirs; but that to their surprise he has confined their Duan and acquainted them by their Vakeel that if they won't make their visit they must pay their usual present, and that they hear he has sent orders to Backergunge to stop all boats that may pass that way; upon which they immediately despatched a light boat with orders to all the Company's boats to proceed by the way of Tantalea. But as that boat may not overtake them, as also that there may likewise be people sent to Tantalea, they send Express Cassids to us for us to take what measures we think proper.

146.—*A Lieutenant's Party despatched to Backergunge to clear the boats.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 12.]

A letter from Dacca expressing apprehension of goods being stopt by orders from Rajabullub being read.

Agreed, we despatch Lieutenant John Harding of a command of soldiers 25 Buxaries in order to clear these boats if stopped in their way to this place, and take them under his protection. Our Rice merchants complain of several small boats loaded with Rice being stopped at Backergunge by an order from Dacca, which stoppage occasions a great scarcity and dearness of Grain in this place.

* This redoubt defended by 60 Europeans and Natives repulsed with loss the Nawab's Army in June 16, 1756.

147.—*Company's business stopped by the Burdwan Rajah.**

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 1.]

Laid before us translates of several letters received from the Gomashtas residing in the districts of the Burdwan Rajah, informing us that the Hon'ble Company's business in those parts is entirely stopped, occasioned by a dispute between Mr. John Wood and Rambujan Cubbarazy the said Rajah's Gomashtas, against whom Mr. Wood having obtained a warrant of sequestration from the Mayors Court, he had by virtue thereof sealed up the Rajah's house and effects in Calcutta.† Upon taking into consideration this affair the Board are of opinion the Rajah has taken a step by no means warrantable and extremely insolent, and that an application should be immediately made to the Nabob insisting on the currency of our business, and a proper reprimand to the Rajah for this insult. *Agreed* therefore that the President prepare an address to the Nabob, and send up a Chubdar immediately with it, complaining of the Rajah's insolence and unwarranted proceedings in stopping the Honorable Company's business transacted in his Provinces and seizing their effects, and that he insisted upon a proper reprimand being sent to the Rajah and the usual currency given to our affairs at the Aurungs situated in his jurisdiction.

148.—*Items of Mayor's expenses, tom-tom.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 11.]

For chubdars and 9 peons, as per month	Rs.	35	0 0
For palankin, 6 months	„	200	0 0
Paid the trustees of the Charity for apartments for the Records, for 6 months	„	198	0 0
Clerk of the Peace, monthly	„	46	0 0
Nine Justices	„	10	0 0
Interpreter	„	60	0 0
Sheriff	„	162	0 0
30 seer wax candles for 15 sittings	„	45	0 0
Batta	„	3	9 6
Stationery	„	200	0 0
Tom-Tom	„	1	1 0
Total expenditure for six months	„	2,371	0 3

* See No. 158.

† The Gomastah owed Rs. 6,357 to a European, the payment of which could not be secured.

149.—*A sloop sunk to destroy the white-ants.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 14.]

Captain Samuel Lutton, Master Attendant, sends in a Report of the Calcutta sloop, requesting leave to sink her in order to destroy the white ants. *Ordered,* his Report to be entered after this day's Consultation. *Agreed,* he be permitted to sink the said sloop.

150.—*Company's weavers and gomastahs seized.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 24.]

On the 22nd and 23rd instant we received two letters from Mr. William Baillie, Chief, &c., Council at Jugdea dated 10th and 12th April, informing us that one of their old delolls, by name Rutton Manick, has procured a sowar to seize their weavers and Peons under pretence that they had no right to sell their Cloth to them but by his intervention; and that he has also seized one of the Gomashtas on his way to the Aurungs; and as this step has alarmed the weavers and Peons in such a manner as to make them afraid to deal with them, that till such a time as a perwannah is procured, and at the same time to indemnify their weavers, their business must be brought to a stop or carried on in a most lame and unsettled manner.

151.—*The Burdwan Raja* ordered by the Nawab to allow the English to trade.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 5.]

I received an Arassdoss from the English Governor in which he acquaints me that the Gomashta Ramjeebun Cubbrage being indebted to an Englishman, they had set peons upon your house agreeable to their custom, for which reason you have put Chowkees upon all the Company's Factories within your districts and stopped their business, imprisoning their Gomashtas. This manner of acting is contrary to your interest and very wrong, as it is by no means allowable that a zemindar should take such a step without an order first had

* Telik Chand was the Rajah of Burdwan at this time; he was very rich and wielded all the power of a feudal chieftain in his district as may be seen by this fact—he shut up all the English Factories and stopped their business.—*Ed.*

from me. The English are foreigners and have settled in our Country on a dependence of our protection in their Trade; and if they are treated in this manner, the consequence will be their withdrawing themselves and their Trade, on which account I positively direct that on the immediate receipt of this Perwanah you remove the Chowkeys you have put on their factories, and let their business have the usual currency without any further trouble.

152.—*Oppression of the English by the Nawab's people near Dacca.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 5.]

A Jugdea letter, dated 22nd April, states—They have received lately many insults from the Government there, and particularly in their giving public orders that no person there shall serve the Factory, and in actually seizing of those that offer to serve it; and in this case they have been obliged to maintain what they judge their right to use frequently in their defence force with the Government there. However as that may be inconvenient to their business, so they request we will get justice done them by ordering a representation to be made to the Durbar of the affair they have mentioned to us; as also of the almost continual rascality of their Government there, which, if not curbed in some effectual manner will make the conducting their business in a proper manner impossible.

153.—*The great Tank of Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 12.]

The Zemindar* represents to the Board the state of the great tank to the southward of the Park which is so much damaged and wore away that the houses now inhabited by Messrs. Collect, Becher and Nixon become greatly endangered. As this tank might not only be made at a small expense a great ornament to the settlement, but a most useful reservoir of water to the poor the whole year round, he requests the Board will give him permission to repair and enclose this tank, and prohibit the washing of people and horses therein, the latter practice making the tank at times so offensive there is no passing either to the southward or northward.

* Mr. Holwell was Zemindar or Collector of Calcutta.

154.—*Definition of the name Feringy.**

[CONSULTATIONS JUNE 16.]

Disputes in the Mayor's Court having arisen between Armenians, Europeans, Mussulmans and Hindus *versus* Feringys. Mr. Howell writes a long letter on the jurisdiction of his office as zemindar versus the Mayor's Court; in it he gives the following definition of the word Feringy—

By Feringy I mean all the black mustee Portuguese Christians residing in the Settlement as a people distinct from the natural and proper subjects of Portugal; and as a people who sprung originally from Hindoos or Mussulmen, and who by the law of nations cannot by their conversion to Christianity be exempted from their allegiance to the Mogul their natural Lord, any more than a British subject is freed from his allegiance to the King of England by embracing the Mohomedan Faith; and consequently this race of people are comprehended in the Royal Charter under the word Natives as much as the Hindoos or Mussulmen.

155.—*Proposed joint appeal of English, Dutch, French, to the Great Nabob.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 14.]

On the 12th instant, we received a letter from Mr. Nicholas Clerembault, Chief, &c. Council at Dacca, dated the 7th, informing us Meer Abou Taleb, Naib to the Nabob Kissendass, on a pretence of a demand of some considerable present from the Dutch Factory there, had seized a writer belonging to the Dutch and confined him in the Kellah till the Dutch Chief made a promise of complying with their demand. As it is a most violent and unprecedented proceeding to an European, they have reason to apprehend it may greatly endanger their future residence there if a proper complaint be not made to the Great Nabob

* A Frenchman married to a Feringy, named Sarah Shadow, originally a slave, and now married for the fourth time, claimed some property kept by his mother-in-law, a black Feringy—the case was appealed from Holwell the Zemindar to the Mayor's Court, the latter asserting their right to try all cases where Europeans were concerned. The Council thought appeals lay to them and that the Mayor's Court was inclined to trench on their prerogative, the houses and effects in Calcutta of Ramjebun Koberaj the Rajah's Gomshta having been sealed by the Mayor's Court upon a complaint lodged there by W. I. Wood.

Mohobut Jung at Muxadavad. That Mr. Ysinck, the Dutch Chief, having informed the French Chief and Mr. Clerembault that he should inform the Council at Chinsurah and desire the application to us and to the Council at Chandernagore in order to obtain our and their consent to a joint complaint to the Great Nabob at Muxadabad.

156.—*House rented for the writers in the service.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 1.]

There being no apartments in the factory for the young gentlemen lately come out in the service, and Mr. Dumbleton's* house being offered at Rupees 1,000 per annum.

Agreed, the said house be rented for the Writers.

157.—*A year's notice of retirement from the service.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 4.]

Holwell applying for leave to England on account of impaired health, quotes the despatch, 24th January 1753, "directing their servants to give one year's notice of their intention to quit India."†

158.—*The Nawab claims the property of a deceased Merchant.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 11.]

The Nawab demands the property of Lutchy and Radhanath Cotmah and Goseram Sen, native merchants of Calcutta who died without male issue; the President resisted it on the ground that his relations were his heirs, that he was under the protection of the English who had a lien on the property as he owed them money.‡

* Mr. Dumbleton was then the only Attorney in Calcutta, he was Register of the Mayor's Court and as such, he had many a quarrel with the Company's servants in defence of his position as a lawyer; he perished in the Black Hole.—*Ed.*

† Mr. Holwell intended to leave in September 1756, little anticipating he would be prisoner at Murshedabad then.

‡ The Nawab Ali Verdi Khan repeatedly claimed the property of Calcutta Natives dying without male issue on the ground that in such cases the Mogul becomes heir.

159.—*Charities to Brahmins.*

[CONSULTATIONS, OCTOBER 27.]

The list of Charities allowed the Brahmins out of the cotta amounted to Rs. 1,013 for 40 persons; it was stopped this year.

160.—*Farm of the ferry boats abolished.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 2.]

Farm of the ferry boats should be abolished, in lieu whereof that the Company should keep three or four good boats for that service; every passenger paying the usual allowance and be permitted to bring their greens and fish over duty free.*

161.—*Captain Fenwick's 34 years' service in Bengal.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 10.]

Captain Fenwick having served the Company 34 years without any material absence from duty, obtained leave of absence to Europe on private affairs and on account of severe indisposition.

162.—*Warren Hastings.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 24.]

A letter from Cossimbazar mentions they had directed Mr. Warren Hastings to proceed to the Putney Aurung in order to purchase putney on our Hon'ble Masters' account and to make all necessary enquiries. He sent a letter on the increased dearness of silk of late years, attributing it to inundations from heavy rain (1752 and 1754,) which had destroyed the silk-worms and the mulberry leaves they fed on.

163.—*Europeans successfully resist a duty on the sale of houses.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 3, PARA. 37.]

Your Honors will observe by the face of our Consultations of the 5th January Mr. Holwell moved the Board to come to a determination touching the duty of 5 per cent. ordered to be levied on the sale of Europeans' Houses: we accordingly took that affair under consideration; and judging from information and the particular instance of Captain

* There were duties then on fishing boats, on cows, the sale of old sloops and boats, fireworks, chunam and planks, old tea catties and old nails, tary shops, jagre, salami on pottahs.—*Ed.*

John Durand that there would be much trouble and perplexity in collecting this duty,* and that few, if anybody, will submit to it without a litigation, we agreed to postpone the collecting of it on Europeans till your further pleasure was known, which step, we hope, will not be disapproved of; and as the order has occasioned an universal clamour and is esteemed a very burthensome duty, we beg leave to recommend it to your Honors as more eligible to relinquish it.†

164.—*Complaint of local Military Officers.*‡

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 3, PARA. 16.]

Enclosed in this Packet your Honors will receive a remonstrance addressed you by the Subaltern Officers of our establishment setting forth the hardship they suffer by the present method of sending out annually Gentlemen from Europe with Military Commissions superior to theirs; which remonstrance we beg leave to recommend to your consideration and as we apprehend their complaint to be justly founded and cannot tax any of them with a neglect of their duty or any ill behaviour whereby they might forfeit your favor, we doubt not their case will be duly considered by your Honors and their grievance relieved.

165.—*Demolitions in the Fort necessary for defence.*§

[DESPATCH TO COURT, FEBRUARY 5, PARA. 42.]

Colonel Simson, Engineer of the Fort, reports—

The whole Fort when finished will be a narrow slip on the side of the River, and in order to build it, the whole south side of the Factory which contains the apartments for most of the young Gentlemen in the

* Durand firmly refused to pay the duty unless obliged to do so by a decree of the Mayor's Court. Mr. Holwell wished him to be deported on ship-board in 24 hours, but the Council decided he should be sent home by the ships of the season.—*Ed.*

† It was resolved, however, "in the mean time the duty be collected on the sale of all Armenians' and Portuguese' houses, as they have no pretence to exemption more than the merchants and other Bengal inhabitants."

‡ The commencement of a spirit of jealousy which culminated in Clive's time in a meeting of the officers and their mutiny.—*Ed.*

§ Information at this time had been received "that great fleets and many forces are suspected to be preparing in France for this part of the globe." Colonel Scott submitted a scheme at the cost of Rs. 75,000 for enclosing Calcutta with a ditch, redoubts, drawbridges; the ditch was to be 36 feet wide and 12 feet deep. The Council rejected it as too expensive.

Company's service, the Magazine for arms and Military stores, the shop for medicine, s[illegible]'s shop, &c., must be pulled down immediately, as also the Church and Hospital; as all these buildings are [illegible] at use, they cannot be well spared, and it would be diffi[illegible] to supply their place immediately.

166.—*Precariousness of life after forty years of age.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, AUGUST 22.]

We make bold to make known to your Honors that it is highly necessary to send three or four expert Gentlemen educated in the branch of Engineering carrying on in the most regular manner Plans of Fortification, as experience teaches us to verify this general observation that men's lives advanced to or nigh the age of Forty are very precarious in such a change of climate from their native Country, therefore successors should be appointed to prevent the inconveniences we now labor under. It has hitherto been very unfortunate to this Settlement that every Gentleman who has had capacity has been appointed by our employers to fortify this place, [illegible] not lived even to make a beginning on the plans proposed.

167.—*Money supplied to the Aurungs.*

[DESPATCH TO COURT, DECEMBER [illegible], PARA. 48.]

We have supplied the Aurungs [illegible] one million two hundred and eighty-one thousand six hundred and thirty-seven Rupees two annas (1,281,637-2-0) Current:—

	Current Rs.	A.	P.
Santipore	93,592	3	9
Hurrypaul	85,443	8	6
Dorneacally	38,533	7	3
Gollagore	38,518	3	6
Cuttorah	51,491	6	6
Burrol	82,261	0	3
Hurriall	2,24,120	6	9
Budoul	79,483	14	6
Keerpye	1,62,570	12	0
Malda	2,64,007	2	6
Calcutta	59,500	0	0
Barnagore	73,015	2	0
Soonamokie	22,099	14	6
Current Rupees ...	12,81,637	2	0

And have received from the Aurungs to this date four hundred and fifty thousand (4,50,000) Current Rupees in goods.

168. [illegible]ials of Christians in Criminal cases.

[DESPATCH TO COURT, DECEMBER 8, 1755.]

We have likewise [illegible]ablished a Quorum of Justices of the Peace to act in Criminal cases where [illegible]hristians are concerned.

169.—*Mr. Cruttenden forced himself into the post of Superintendent of Marine and [illegible] the contract for supplying coir cables.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 19.]

It is very observable that [illegible]ials for the service gave public notice for contracting for stores* and ma[illegible]on but Mr. Cr[illegible]tenden, and he has accordingly contracted for a[illegible]ter coi[illegible]r cables and cordage. The reason why other persons did no[illegible]s evident upon the face of his proposal by which it appears he [illegible]d monopolized those articles under the specious pretence of f[illegible] his contract during the time he had, with your connivance, forced himself into the post of Superintendent of the Marine. If such method [illegible] we can expect nothing but gross imposition; and if we find any future instances of the like kind we shall highly resent them.†

170.—*Weavers to be encouraged to settle in Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 54.]

It has appeared to us as very extraordinary that so exceeding populous a place as Calcutta is, and no doubt inhabited by great numbers of weavers, should be of so little immediate benefit to us; the merchants have employed those useful people, and have hitherto run away with the advantage which we might with equal ease have obtained. But thanks to the conduct of those merchants which have drove you to expedients which might not otherways have been thought of; you

* The Company were most anxious in respect to contracts "to stir up and promote a useful competition"; they objected at this time to Omichand trying to have the monopoly of supplying saltpetre, by which he made enormous profit.—*Ed.*

† Mr. Cruttenden retired a few years after to England; on going as he could not remit at once the bulk of his fortune he asked the Company to favor him with bills for "the trifling" sum of Rs. 30,000.—*Ed.*

now find many sorts of goods are fabricated within our bounds, cheap and of good qualities, and may be had at the first hand. As it is evidently for our interest therefore to encourage not only all the weavers now in our bounds, but likewise to draw as many others as possible from all countries to reside under our protection, we shall depend on your utmost efforts to accomplish the same; and shall hope the time is not far off wherein we shall find a great share of your investment made under your own eyes.

171.—*Company's Servants making private gain from the investments.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 56.]

In short, we have too much reason to believe our servants at the several subordinates in one shape or other unfaithfully interest themselves at our expense in the investments; and we are the more induced to believe so from the observation we have made upon the deelolls of Jugdea's complaint against Messrs. Bayley and Playdell which was under your examination upon the departure of the Falmouth, together with some hints which have been given us of unfair practices at Dacca, which we are not yet sufficiently enough apprized of to mention, to all which add the very extraordinary instance of Mr. Wogan's raising from nothing such a fortune at Dacca as it is generally reported he has brought home, although so young and low in the service. Upon the whole, there appears a real necessity that their future conduct should be well looked after and a scrutiny made into their past management.

172.—*The Armenians to pay their fair share of th· ··xes.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 64.]

We agree in our sentiments with you that, as the Armenians enjoy the benefits of our protection, they ought to pay consulage equally with the Europeans. You are therefore to continue collecting it agreeable to our former orders, unless you find it will be attended with any bad consequences.

173.—*Duties on Marriage grievous to the poor.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 77.]

You are likewise to point out to us what duty or fines appear to be particularly grievous upon the poorer sort of people, such as the

duty on marriages, which, we think, ought to be either totally abolished or levied with great regard to circumstances, and the duty called Etlack, if it is necessary to be continued, ought to be used with moderation and greatly redressed.

174.—*Proclamations to be made in the different languages.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 79.]

And here we must recommend it to you to fix up in all the Bazaars and other the most public places in the town in the different languages exact accounts of all the duties, fees of office, and all other collections upon all sorts of goods, provisions, necessaries, and other particulars which contribute to our revenues for the information of the people in general; and you must take effectual care that farmers, collectors, and others do not exact a pice more than is allowed, and you are hereby directed to transmit to us for our information copies of such public notices.*

175.—*Inhabitants of Calcutta not to be oppressed with grievous duties.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 80.]

It is our inclination and intention that the inhabitants be governed with mildness and equity and not oppressed by grievous duties. Yet at the same time the increase of our revenues in general must be the constant object of our care as far as it may be reasonably and without oppression extended.

176.—*Duty of 5 per cent. on European houses in the White Town of Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 81.]

We think the duty of 5 per cent. proposed to be levied on the sale of houses belonging to Europeans and others in the White Town, as mentioned in your letter of the 4th of January, is reasonable, and we direct therefore that it be levied.

* The Despatch states the object is to promote freedom of trade, and that "traders might be entirely free of the apprehension of being hindered, imposed upon, and oppressed in trade by the Governor, the Members of Council, our inferior servants, or any other person whatever."—*Ed.*

177.—*Handwriting of Civilians faulty and slovenly.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 105.]

We are sorry to say that almost all the books, papers, and accounts, received this season with regard to method as well as writing, are faulty and slovenly to a degree that we are quite ashamed of, and plainly shew the great negligence of both our superior and junior servants.*

178.—*A Court of Requests instituted.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 125.]

We [illegible] of a Court of Request is so agreeable and [illegible] is letter to us represents it to be; but we [illegible] ce to larger sums than what are given [illegible] ver useful it might be, there is no probab[illegible] uld upon any application enlarge the sums, [illegible] ment, of which there are several for the erectin[illegible] ifferent parts of the kingdom, have not in Courts with a power of hearing and deter- g the value of forty shillings.

Court not cognisant of disputes between the Natives.

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 136.]

[illegible]ayor's Court complain of that part of the Charter which [illegible]n them the cognizance of disputes between the natives.

[illegible]his insertion was occasioned by a representation which in the 1735 was made to our President and Court at Fort St. George by petition in the names of the whole body of inhabitants of Madras Brahmins, Guzzerats, right and left Gentoos and Moors, setting forth, that they had laws and customs of their own differing from those of England, and praying that they might be at liberty to determine the differences arising among themselves by arbitrators of their own choosing, to which we at that time agreed, and in consequence got this clause to be made a part of the present Charter, and under the head Indian Natives we meant to include the several persons and sects in

* They complain of many mistakes in the Bills of Exchange, both in the sums and names, they are carelessly written—"which seem principally to arise from the little time the young people we are afraid bestow upon this, as well as on most other branches of business."—*Ed.*

whose names the before-mentioned petition had been presented, and we are of opinion that the Mayor's Court, notwithstanding this clause, may hold plea in suits between any persons, though born in India, who do not fall within this description.

180.—*Company's Servants supplying our Dutch rivals with goods.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 142.]

Since what we have mentioned under the 3rd he[illegible]gard to Mr. Wogan, we are not surprised at the l[illegible]s acquired in so short a time, having been [illegible]he Dutch with their Dacca goods on which [illegible]nt. This practice of furnishing our rivals, the [illegible] great reason to believe, has been for some ti[illegible]ed on by our servants, greatly to our prejudice, [illegible]ch with those very goods which we ordered and w[illegible] Dadney and Puttun, and particularly the best in quali[illegible]

181.—*Miss Campbell to be sent ba[illegible]*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 31, PARA. 14[illegible]

Captain Samson, of the Hardwicke, upon his [illegible] Downs, advised us he had taken on board a young la[illegible] for Madeira, whose name we have since been informed [illegible] As he had not our leave for that purpose, and as we are a[illegible] he intended to carry her to India, if therefore she shall be [illegible] Bengal or at any of our settlements under your Presidency, [illegible] hereby positively ordered to take effectual care that she is sent bac[illegible] England at the expense of the owners of the Hardwicke upon the fiit ship you shall despatch.*

182.—*The Lisbon Earthquake postpones the Company's sales.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 19, PARA. 13.]

It was our intention to have forwarded a list of investments by the ships now under despatch, and for our better government therein had fixed

* The Court allowed no one out to India without a pass, and were rather chary of increasing the number of European ladies. Annual lists of all Residents in Calcutta had to be sent to London which were carefully examined as for instance, the Court refer to a Miss Christiana Ross who was returned as an inhabitant of Calcutta in 1754 when, "as was well known to the public, she had returned to Europe in a French ship."—*Ed.*

our sale for the Bengal and Coast piece-goods for the 2nd instant, which was a few days after we received the news of the fatal calamity which befel the city of Lisbon, which by an earthquake that happened on the 1st November and a conflagration which ensued, both almost reduced the whole of it to a heap of ruins to the immense loss of the mercantile part of Europe, and of England in particular, though Holland and Hamburgh are also very greatly involved therein.

This melancholy event caused so great and immediate a stagnation in business, and so much affected public credit in the negociations of exchange with most parts of Europe, that we found ourselves under a necessity on the pressing instances of many of our principal buyers to postpone the sale, and whether it will be possible for us to have it ended by the time our latter ships for Coast and Bay sail is yet uncertain.

183.—*Prizes for quick passages round the Cape.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 13.]

We have revived our orders for encouraging the Commanders of such of our ships as may happen to be despatched from Bengal and Fort St. George after the 3rd March to use their best endeavours to get about the Cape of Good Hope and thereby gain their passage home the same season, by promising a gratuity of two hundred guineas in case of a French War and at other times one hundred guineas; at the same time they are acquainted that at whatever time they are despatched, if it shall appear they do not use their best endeavours to gain their passage, they are liable to be rendered incapable of the Company's Service, which we mention for your information in order for your reminding the Commanders thereof, and for your doing on your part whatever may be necessary for encouraging and enforcing their compliance with this part of their instructions. Upon occasion of some late differences with the owners of our shipping with respect to demurrage, it is necessary to make a standing rule and you are to observe it as such accordingly. Carefully take notice whether the Commanders of our European ships loiter or mispend their time.

184.—*Presents to the Nawab and Phousdar of Hugly.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 58.]

We observe you have, in consequence of our recommendations for keeping upon good terms with the Government, made a present of a horse and some wax-work to the Nawab, amounting to two thousand

three hundred current Rupees, and to the Phousdar of Hugly and his Duan about seven thousand Rupees. As we are sensible a well-timed present may obviate many embarassments, we hope these were such; and you may be assured, whenever they appear reasonable and necessary for the purpose of preserving harmony with the Country Government, we shall always approve of them.

185.—*Lodgings of the Writers very damp.**

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 69.]

We have been informed that the apartments set apart for the lodgings of our writers are, from the nature of their situation, very damp, and consequently greatly prejudicial to their healths. You are therefore to allot some other places for that use, or, if necessary, erect such new apartments in the most frugal manner as may best answer the purpose, having a particular regard that they be as near the respective offices for business as possible.

186.—*Civilians' qualifications in writing and accounts.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 78.]

The other young gentlemen proceed on these ships, the *Chesterfield* and *Walpole*, and as we have taken care to be satisfied of their qualifications in writing and accounts, we think they likewise may with proper care be of good service.

187.—*Young Writers to attend to business from 9 to 12 in the forenoon and not to ramble about in Palankeens.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 91.]

In your letter of the 7th December 1754 you say you shall take care that all our junior servants be kept strictly employed, for which end you had ordered the heads of the several offices to insist on their attending their business from nine to twelve in the forenoon, and in the afternoon and evening when the occasion requires. This regulation to enjoin on attendance (short as it is) implies how remiss our junior servants had been in this particular, and indeed the copying part of almost every book and paper received for some time past strongly

* These lodgings were in the north quarter of the Fort near the Black Hole; the Ware House with other buildings occupying the centre must have shut out the southern reezes, while the Governor's House lay more to the south.—*Ed.*

evinced us of the truth of it. They are done in such a hurry that in general they are unfit to be seen, and many are scarcely legible. It will be as well for the advantage of the young people themselves, as the Company, they be kept regularly, constantly, and strictly, to business, which we therefore most earnestly recommend and positively enjoin to your care and attention to effect. And if any of our junior servants neglect or refuse to do the business allotted them, you are without regard to persons to suspend them from our service, and not restore them without a satisfactory amendment; and we insist upon it that all the junior servants do give their attendance in their respective public offices or stations six hours in a day at least, and as much longer as shall be necessary.* We very well know that the indulging writers with Palankeens has not a little contributed to the neglect of business we complain of, by affording them opportunities of rambling when they ought to be otherwise employed, as well as putting the greater part to an expense they are not in circumstances to support. And therefore since you have in a considerable degree dispensed with our orders on this head, we shall expect it from you that this indulgence be so strictly attended to that we may have no reason to complain of the abuse of it.†

188.—*Surman's Diary found in a public necessary house.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 92.]

An original letter from the Chief and others at Patna, and a leaf torn out of the original Diary of Mr. Surman's Embassy to the Great Mogul,‡ were picked up in a public necessary house which the Writers

* In 1783 among the Regulations for the conduct of business in the Secret Department, it was ordered, that all the assistants shall attend at the office every day, Sunday excepted, during the cold months, *viz.*, from 1st November to 1st April, from 10 o'clock in the forenoon until ½ past 1 in the afternoon, and during the hot months, *viz.*, from the 1st of April to the 1st of November, from 8 o'clock in the forenoon to 12 at noon. The two assistants shall regularly attend at the office in turn every evening, Sunday excepted, from 7 o'clock to ½ past 9, except on the occasion of a despatch, when the attendance of all will be required.

† In another part of the Despatch they state:—"It was and still continues necessary that you are at all times ready to check and to prevent the expensive manner of living and the strong bias to pleasure which, notwithstanding what you say to the contrary, we well know too much prevail among all ranks and degrees of our servants in Bengal. We do assure you it will give us great satisfaction to find by your action that we shall have no further reason to complain on this head."—*Ed.*

‡ Mr. Surman was sent as ambassador to the Great Mogul in 1716. His diary must consequently have been very interesting if at the India House it ought to be printed.—*Ed.*

make use of, and are now in our hands, where, we are informed, many fragments of papers of great importance have likewise been seen. We cannot avoid taking this notice that you may prevent such idle mischief in future. You have omitted to send your Consultations from the 3rd of February 1755 to the time of the despatch of the *Egmont*.

189.—*A Militia very urgently required—the Swiss to be incorporated.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 112.]

We should be glad to know your reasons for not forming a militia as directed in our letter of the 16th January 1752; and as at this time in particular a regular militia may be of the greatest importance for the defence of the settlement, you are without delay to cause a plan to be formed for the purpose, and you are to carry the same into execution as far as shall appear useful and practicable.*

Having come to a resolution not to procure any more men from Switzerland for recruiting our four Swiss Companies, but to unite them with our other troops, but although at present there are none in Bengal, yet it is necessary you should be informed of the directions we have sent.

190.—*Brass Weights to be substituted for leaden.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 116.]

Being sensible that iron and leaden weights by frequent use will lose considerably, we therefore now send you a set of brass standard weights with proper scales and triangles, by which you are immediately to regulate the weights at your Presidency, and you are to carefully preserve the said standard weights for the same purpose at all times hereafter.†

191.—*Irregularities in the Calcutta Custom House.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 119.]

The method of collecting our customs at Calcutta has for a long time appeared to us very irregular. The extent of your limits on the river

* Of the militia they had at the capture of Calcutta Holwell states "100 were Armenians and were useless, as were the black boys and slaves, most of whom could not handle a musket."

† One part of the duty of the Zemindar at that period was as Clerk of the market to examine the weights and measures as well as the quality of the provisions sold.—*Ed.*

being large, and the merchant at liberty to ship off his goods from what part he pleases, must (admitting your utmost care and caution) be of great prejudice to this branch of our revenues. We therefore order that on receipt of this our letter you appropriate the Company's House, which, we are informed, is very proper, and the situation equally so, for the purpose of a place of receipt for all goods whatever to be exported from, and you are to offer notice at the fort gates, and other most public places, that all goods whatever to be exported shall be brought to and shipped off at this house and there only, and whoever shall be found to ship goods from any other place within your limits, the whole to be forfeited—one-third to the informer and two-thirds to the Company. And whereas we do hear that goods have at times been brought down the river and put on board your ships without landing at Calcutta, evading by this practice of export duty: We do also direct that you make publication that such goods shall be forfeited in the manner and proportion above-mentioned.

192.—*Sea imports exempt from duty.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 11, PARA. 121.]

Your Sea imports have hitherto been exempt from all duties whatever; and this exemption we mean to continue on all merchandise that shall pay an import or export duty to any of our other settlements: and this we do for the reasons *first*,—that an additional duty on goods already loaded may be esteemed and felt as a burden. *Secondly*,—that it may bring the French and Dutch, your competitors, too much on a footing with you.

193.—*French Privateers and their bounties.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 14, PARA. 129.]

Since writing the beforegoing, advices have been received that the French King's orders were published at Dunkirk for all British subjects to quit his dominions before the 1st of next month, except such as may obtain his permission to remain. Another edict was published inviting his subjects to fit out Privateers, promising a premium of forty livres for every gun, and as much for every man they take on board our ships; with a further promise that in case peace should be concluded soon, the King will purchase the said Privateers at their prime cost.

194.—*The Secret Committee.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 6.]

All due obedience must be paid to the orders and directions of the Secret Committee, or any three of them, by the President, those gentlemen who form the Select Committee, or any other person or persons to whom they shall think proper to issue them, in as full and ample a manner as if they were signed by the Court of Directors. The gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee under the present direction are —Peter Godfrey, John Payne, Christopher Burrow, Roger Drake, and Jones Raymond, Esquires.

195.—*Great remissness in the Pilots.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 23.]

We are sorry to say we have been informed of very great remissness in our pilots during the last war, which, had it sooner come to our knowledge, we should have resented in a proper manner. We understand it was a common practise with them to look out for anything they could meet with in Balasore Roads, or otherwise to get the charge of any foreign or country ships which first came in their way, for which they demanded and received an exorbitant price. By these means our ships, which at that season were daily expected to arrive, were totally neglected, insomuch that our commanders have been obliged to put a confidence in, and trust the care of their ships to, an enemy's pilot. We therefore direct that you give strict orders to our pilots that some of them do constantly keep on their proper stations off Point Palmiras at the season our ships are expected, until they all arrive; and carefully attend upon them until they are safe at their moorings.

195½.—*The Nawab's protection to be engaged.**

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 25.]

We must recommend it to you in the strongest manner to be as well on your guard as the nature and circumstances of your Presidency will permit to defend our estate in Bengal; and, in particular, that you will do all in your power to engage the Nabob to give you his protection as the only and most effectual measure for the security of the settlement and property.

* At this time the Court were alarmed at the news of the French preparing an expedition for the East Indies at Port L'Orient and the embarking 2,500 Land Forces there.—*Ed.*

196.—*The Bengal Council meeting on board a ship.*—Admiral Watson—Letter to Surajed Dowla.—Omichand.*

[CONSULTATION ON BOARD THE PHŒNIX SCHOONER, FULTA, AUGUST 22.]

At a Committee, present—

THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ.
WILLIAM WATTS, ESQ.
MAJOR JAMES KILPATRICK.
JOHN ZEPHANIAH HOLWELL, ESQ.

Met by appointment of the Board for the better despatch of affairs of the country and for the receiving of intelligence and advice.

The Honorable George Pigot, Esq., and Council at Fort Saint George in their general letter of the 7th instant received the information that they had sent down by the *Sea Horse* sloop, Captain Oliphant, 120 barrels of ammunition, and that Admiral Watson has consented to the sending down His Majesty's ship the *Bridgewater*, which would be despatched in a few days with further supplies of men and ammunition.

Major Kilpatrick on the 15th instant wrote a complimentary letter to the Nabob Surajed Dowla complaining a little of the hard usage of the English Honorable Company, assuring him of his good intentions notwithstanding what had happened, and begging in the mean time, till things were cleared up, that he would treat him at least as a friend, and give orders that our people may be supplied with provisions in a full and friendly manner. This letter to the Nabob he enclosed to Mr. Bisdom, the Dutch Governor, to have it translated into Persian, but Mr. Bisdom in his answer excuses himself, and advises him to send it up to Mr. Warren Hastings at Cassimbazar, assuring him at the same time in the genteelest and strongest manner that he might command him in every thing unless where his honorable master's interest interfered.

This day the Major received a letter from Omichand assuring him of his good intentions and of the desire he had to serve him, which letter he sent down by Coja Petross and Abraham Jacobs, who, he writes, will explain his mind more freely. These people promise great things from

* The English Government was at this time expelled from Calcutta, and was accommodated on board a boner near the pestiferous shores of Fulta, they received, however, regular and important information respecting the movements at Murshidabad through W. Hastings, then Commercial Agent there.—*Ed.*

Omichand as greatly in the interest of the Honorable Company, and advise the Major to write complimentary letters to Raja Manick Chand, Juggerseat, Coja Wazed and Raja Dewlap, which letters Omichand would get rendered into Persian and delivered with the originals.

197.— *Secret intelligence from Murshidabad.*

[CONSULTATIONS ON THE SCHOONER PHŒNIX, FULTA, AUGUST 31.]

Mr. Robert Gregory to Major Kilpatrick from Chinsura of the 19th instant received the 24th advices that on the 17th at Calcutta they had received a reinforcement of 300 horse; that they were daily sending up goods and money from thence to Chinsura being under great apprehensions from the expected men-of-war, and that Manick Chand had expressly wrote to the Dutch Governor but the night before to supply the English with no manner of provisions or ammunition, severely threatening him if he did.

Advices received of the 26th from the same gentleman at Chinsura of the 23rd mention that boats were getting ready to fall down upon our fleet and set it on fire: that Manick Chand was going down to Bugee-Bugee, from whence he intended to surprise us: that he always kept three fishing boats in sight of the fleet to observe our motions, and that it was there reported that he had sent down Mr. Mackett's banian as a spy.*

A letter received this day from Mr. Gregory of the 28th mentions that the Nabob had sent to the Dutch to take off his hands all the effects he had plundered from the English, which they say they have wrote to be excused in, but that they fear he will compel them to it.

Agreed that Mr. William Forth be appointed also to procure intelligence among the Dutch and French, and to transmit the same by every opportunity, and that Mr. Warren Hastings at Cassimbazar be directed to remain there in order to observe their motions at Muxadavad, and learn as far as he is able what they are doing there, documents of which he will transmit to the Major by every opportunity or by express.

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* And yet Omichand and Manikchand were at this time in friendly correspondence with the English, they (negotiated at this time between the Nawab and the English) understanding how to run with the hare and keep with the hound.—*Ed.*

198.—*Secret information from Omichand.—The Armenians—Warren Hastings.*

[CONSULTATIONS ON BOARD THE PHŒNIX SCHOONER, FULTA, SEPTEMBER 5.]

Omichand writes (through Coja Petros and Abraham Jacobs) he did not think it right to forward the letters for Juggerseat, Rajah Dewlap and Coja Wazed which he therefore returned. The bearers (Omichand's messengers) further observed that some small presents of cutlery and chintz from the Major (Kilpatrick) would be both very useful and acceptable to people it was necessary to employ; hinting at the same time that they were at considerable expense themselves in boat hire and otherwise.

The same day there came another letter to the Major by Coja Petross and Abraham Jacobs from Raja Manick Chand of the 2nd instant at Allinagore (Calcutta) with many complaints and the strongest assurance of his assistance. He sent at the same time a boat with a dustick with orders for the opening a bazar and for the supplying us with provisions of all kinds.

Yesterday came advices from Mr. Forth of the 2nd instant that by letters from Mr. Bisdom from Cassimbazar, of the 31st ultimo, of which the contents Mr. Bisdom desired him to communicate, he is informed that the Nabob of Pyrnea was appointed by the King, Nabob of Bengal; that he was joined by another considerable Raja, and that he had begun hostilities and taken about 200 boats; that upon news of this Surajed Dowla had ordered Jaffer Alli Cawn and other principal officers to march with a force to oppose him, which they did, but returned on the 29th on account of a dispute between the Nabob and Juggerseat, in which the former reproached the latter for not getting a phirmaund and then ordered him to raise from the merchants three crore of rupees, but Juggerseat pleading the hardships of his already oppressed people received a blow on the face and was confined. Jaffer Alli Cawn returning upon this went with other principal officers and insisted on Juggerseat being set at liberty, but were refused, on which they declared that they would not draw their swords in his service till he should be appointed Nabob by the King. Mr. Forth further adds that Mr. Hastings, of the 26th from Cassimbazar, mentions also the appointment of the Pyrnea Nabob and the confusion they were in at Muxadavad 1,000 men were ordered up from Calcutta; Mr. Warren Hastings writes from Cassimbazar that great preparations were there

making for a war with Shocut Jung, the Nabob of Pyrnea, who has had the Nabobship of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, conferred upon him by the King of Dily, whose eldest son is appointed Subah of the province; that Sajatel Mulhut has sent 6,000 horse to his assistance and the most of the Rajas near Pyrnea were in the same interest, having deserted Surajed Dowla.*

199.— *Warren Hastings on the English.*

[CONSULTATIONS ON BOARD THE GRAMPUS SLOOP, FULTA, SEPTEMBER 15.]

The Board agreed to send a letter in Persian to the Pyrnea Nabob with presents, hoping he might defeat Surajed Dowla. Warren Hastings writes, "the English at the Court of Moorshedabad were never mentioned there but with pity or contempt."

200.—*The state of Calcutta when the English were expelled.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FULTA, SEPTEMBER 20.]

Padre Bento of the 16th from Chincura advises the honorable, the president, that he had remained from the 1st to the 25th ultimo at Calcutta where there were then 1,000 or 1,500 sepoys, and that they had mounted most of the Honorable Company's cannon on the battery facing the river for which they had made new carriages, very bad and unfit for service; that there were few guns mounted on the bastions and none on the curtain.

He is since informed by people he can depend on that there were only 1,000 men in garrison at Calcutta, that at Tanna's Fort there were 200 men, 11 guns, four 2-pounders, one 24-pounder, and six more unfit for service; with only four Portuguese gunners; that at Bujee-Bujee there were 800 men, about 20 good guns and 50 or 60 Portuguese little better than coolies: that at Hughly there are 500 men, of which 40 are in the fort, the rest being quartered on the gunge's place a little above Bandel; they have there also ten unserviceable guns and some old Portuguese gunners.—He further adds that the sponges for the guns were that day sent up to Muxadavad and that the four forts seemed all ready to run away upon the first alarm.

* At this period the Emperor of Delhi was threatening to march into Bengal, 150,000 Mahrattas were ready to enter Bengal and help the English, while many of the Nawab's people were unfaithful to him on account of his extorting money in all manner of ways, the Purnea Nawab was also in arms against him.—*Ed.*

This day received a letter from Mr. Hastings of the 13th instant wherein he says that they were then making an outcry of the furniture of our factory, which was bought up by the Armenians and others; that the Nabob, to engage the Dutch and French to purchase also, had put peons upon their factories and threatened their Vaquills with the chaubuc (whip).

201.—*Provision boats and the feeling of Merchants.*

[CONSULTATION ON BOARD THE GRAMPUS SLOOP, FULTA, OCTOBER 7.]

The bazzar has been shut up these days, and provisions hindered to be brought over, as has been reported by order of Manick Chand on account of some boats which were brought to and searched, when the people belonging to them were afraid and ran away, having first made a hole in one of the boats themselves which soon sank it. This report has been confirmed by Radakisna Mullick who came down this day from Manick Chand.*

Agreed that Radakisna Mullick be desired to represent this affair of the boats in a proper manner to Raja Manick Chand, so as to let him know that it was entirely the fault of the boat people themselves, if they suffered in the least, for not bringing to as is customary for all ships as well as boats passing a fleet, and then running away when there was no manner of harm intended them.

Omichand writes from Chinsura that Coja Wazed and other merchants would be glad to see the English return, were it not for fear of the Nabob.† Coja Petross informed us that the man with the letter for Ballisore‡ had stopped upon account of a holiday, but was to have been here on the 3rd, though he is not yet arrived.

202.—*Warren Hastings writes about the plunder of the Company's goods.*

[CONSULTATIONS ON BOARD GRAMPUS SLOOP, FULTA, OCTOBER 14.]

Mr. Hastings of the 3rd instant, received the 8th, writes that by a person arrived from the other side of the Pudda, he had got intelligence

* A few days after an order came from Raja Manick Chand ordering the bazar for supplying provisions to be opened as formerly.

† Coja Wazed fled with all his women and effects from Calcutta to Tanna Fort, so did many "Moor merchants;" Manick Chand was afraid to remain at Calcutta: Omichand removed his family to Chinsura; they all expected the English soon back.

‡ A Persian letter to Raja Masoorally at Balasore to engage him in the English interest.—*Ed.*

that Soukat Sing having had advice of a party of Surajed Dowla's people carrying off from a village near Malda an investment of the Honorable Company's to the value of one lac of rupees, with about 20,000 in cash, and two Gomastahs in irons; he sent out and intercepted them, ordering them to be carried back, threatening the jemmidars of the district if any such thing should be done again, and assuring the Gomastahs after giving them seerpaws that he had been ordered by the King to restore all that had been taken from the English, which he intended to perform.*

203.—*Manick Chand's plunder removed from Calcutta to Fort Muttijroe.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FULTA, OCTOBER 27.]

Mr. Right Honorable Baldrick from Chandanagore, of the 15th instant, writes that he had been chased and fired at in going up; that Calcutta was between 2,000 or 3,000 men strong; that most of Manick Chand's plunder was removed to a new fort called Muttijure.†

204.—*Manick Chand to march to Budge Budge.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FULTA, OCTOBER 30.]

Abrahim Jacob writes from Chandanagore:—That upon news coming to Calcutta of the arrival of an English galley with soldiers, who were immediately landed, and of the flags being hoisted without anybody's being molested, the Raja gave orders for an extraordinary look out and held a Council in which it was determined to send the greatest part of their force to Bujee Bujee with all their horse, who were at least a thousand, where the Raja himself was to go with an intention to surprise us.

205.—*Holwell's report of the state of Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FULTA, NOVEMBER 23.]

By a letter of intelligence to Mr. Holwell, received the 16th current, we are informed of their situation at Calcutta with respect to the fort and batteries, and are informed that the four bastions there are

* He sent his brother to Sikri Gali to prevent Ram Narayan, the Patna Nawab, from joining Surajed Dowla, he himself had been shortly before this appointed Nawab of Bengal by the Emperor of Delhi.

† Probably the Mulayog near Barrackpore.—*Ed.*

certainly undermined with four chests of powder under each; further that they intend to sink the two vessels at Tannas in the narrow channel of the river there.*

Agreed that the Major (Kilpatrick) write again to Jujjeseat (Jagat Set) to let him know that he had wrote of the † but had received no answer yet, and to assure him that our dependence was upon him, and upon him alone‡ for the hopes we have of resettling in an amicable manner.

206.—*St. Helena kills only a bullock a week.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, MARCH 25, PARA. 22.]

Ships homeward bound are to touch at the Cape or Madagascar and not rely on a supply of provisions at St. Helena. We are assured by the Governor, the island is so much exhausted they cannot afford to kill more than one small bullock a week to supply their market.

207.—*Letters of Marque to be used only in self-defence.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, MARCH 25, PARA. 20.]

You will observe that we have inserted a new clause in all our Commanders' instructions to prevent their making use of their Letters of Marque otherwise than for their defence in case they are first attacked, to prevent as much as possible enterprizing people endangering our property, and embroiling us with the Country Governments in India.

208.—*State of the Factories.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, MARCH 25, PARA. 60.]

The dearness and debasements in the quality of the investments at the subordinate settlements, together with the frequent disappointments in quantities, the bad debts contracted induced us to express our apprehensions in a pretty strong manner.

209.—*No dealings with Prussian Ships.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, MARCH 25, PARA. 71.]

The 105th para. of your letter of the 8th of December 1755 is of so very extraordinary a nature that we would never have expected from any of our servants who had the least regard to decency; it is no other

* Another letter states—"At Calcutta they were in the greatest tranquility, everybody imagining that a treaty with the English was on the carpet, and that all differences would soon be made up."

† Sic. in original.

‡ Coja Wajed an Armenian was in favor of the Nawab.

than a tacit request to trade with new comers for your own private benefit to the apparent prejudice of the Company, though you do not vouchsafe to think the last the case. If any of the Prussian ships want the usual assistance of water, provisions, or real necessaries, they are to be supplied according to the customs of nations in amity one with the other. But you are on no pretence whatsoever to have any dealings with them, or give the least assistance in their mercantile affairs; for it is a very bad argument that because the French and Dutch Company's servants make no scruple to provide and sell them such sortments of goods as they are in want of, that therefore you only are sufferers. If they have so little regard to the interests of their employers the more is the ill; we expected juster sentiments from you.

210.—*Fortification of Fort William.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, MARCH 25, PARA. 78.]

Since the death of Colonel Scott we observe the affair of the fortifications has fallen under the directions and thoughts of different people, whose sentiments are accordingly various.*

211.—*The 5 per cent. duty—Captain Durand's insolent behaviour.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARA. 88.]

Upon your representing that the 5 per cent. duty on the sale of houses created universal clamour and is esteemed very burdensome, and that therefore it will be more eligible to relinquish it, we do assure you, and in course all the inhabitants of Calcutta, that we have a tender regard to their ease, and do therefore consent that the said duty be laid aside. At the same time we cannot avoid taking notice of the insolent behaviour of Captain Durand as tending to such a contempt of our authority as ought never to be borne. Your denying him, therefore, the Company's protection was a very proper measure, more especially as we know of no license he has ever had to reside in any place in India.

* The Fort was so surrounded with private residences that no strong fortification could be made without the demolition of European houses. A Captain Jones wrote in 1755 a long memorial on the state of the Fort, the walls could not bear guns, and the guns sent out from Europe lay without carriages in the Fort, while goods were sold by public outcry at the Fort Gate.—*Ed.*

But we hope it will induce others to behave to you with the greatest decency in future, as may prevent any further complaint of this or any other kind where our authority is struck as through the sides of you our representatives. If Captain Durand continues to misbehave, you have our direction for sending him home immediately; as you are likewise any other person or persons who shall be guilty of any kind of insolent behaviour and contempt of your authority.*

212.—*Sanction for New Salaries necessary.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARA. 100.]

We must here acquaint you that for the future you are not to create any new salaries or allowances, or make any additions to old customary ones, without previously stating to us the reasons for, and necessity of, such salaries or allowances and having our consent for the same. We mean this principle with respect to our Covenant and Military servants, being sensible that in other employments and in extraordinary cases, you must have some latitude which we hope you will make use of with frugality and discretion.

213.—*A troublesome Attorney to be sent to Europe.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARA. 106.]

It hath been represented to us that one Dumbleton, acting as an Attorney, was principally concerned in bringing the affair in an extra-judicial manner of Sarah Shaddow before the Mayor's Court. We do not find that he resides in Bengal with leave from us, or under our license. If that is the case, and you find him inclinable to foment disputes, and of a litigious disposition, you may send him home to Europe.

* Holwell proposed in Council that Captain Durand should get 24 hours' Notice to leave for England; though he had large concerns in trade. At this period they refused to allow Mr. Plaistead, a civil servant, to return to Bengal after going on furlough to England on account of "a turbulent temper and unbecoming behaviour, lessening the Government in the eyes of the whole settlement." One of the Despatches of the Company states, "we not only earnestly recommend but positively order and direct that you act together with a zeal suitable to the present situation of affairs in the greatest harmony and friendship one with another as the best means to promote the common good of the Company and recommend you to our future favor."—*Ed.*

214.—*Writing to be in full plain round hand.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARA. 117.]

Your writing business has been better executed in the several books and papers received this season than for some time past, and fewer mistakes have appeared in the Bills of Exchange. But there is still great room for amendment in both; and we particularly desire you will recommend the writing the general books and consultations, general letters, and all other books and papers of consequence, in plain, full round hands like what is practised here, and at Fort St. George, and Bombay, and not in the same loose hand which is too generally used at your Presidency.

215.—*Bengal Raw Silk complained of, Mr. Wilder sent out to examine.**

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARAS. 140, 146.]

The raw silk from Bengal having been greatly complained of by the buyers here for some years past, we send by the Ship *Elizabeth* Mr. Richard Wilder to examine into the causes of its being bad. And as he has been conversant in raw silk during his whole life, and is a perfect judge of it from the worm to its being made fit for the weaver, we direct that you send him with all convenient expedition to Cossimbazar that he may be on the spot where silk is produced, and give his advice and opinion in what manner the abuses may be rectified.

You will observe by the agreement with Mr. Wilder that he is to be allowed the clear yearly sum of four hundred pounds for the term of five years, or as long as he continues in the service. But you will likewise take notice that the said four hundred pounds a year is to be paid by us in England, and therefore no part thereof is to be paid or advanced him in India.

During Mr. Wilder's residence in Bengal you are to pay him for his subsistence, and instead of diet money, after the rate of ten pounds sterling for every calendar month, to commence from his arrival. And you are to take care that he at all times be provided with a convenient and suitable apartment wherever he shall be resident.

* Complaints for several years having been made by English buyers against Bengal raw silk, Mr. Wilder was sent out by the Court to Cossimbazar to investigate into the causes.

216.—*Preserving the Natives of Calcutta from oppression.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARA. 159.]

We have so frequently and strongly recommended the encouraging the inhabitants, and in particular the relieving the poor, and preserving them from oppression, that we need only say we shall depend upon you as well as Mr. Holwell to take all prudent and necessary measures to answer our good intentions.*

217.—*Decrease of inhabitants in Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 25, PARAS. 159-160.]

It has been said that the number of people at Calcutta have of late been greatly diminished. We shall beg to be informed whether this is the case or not. You are therefore to make an enquiry into the same, and if you find it so you are to give us the reasons, according to the best of your judgment, for such decrease.

218.—*Despatches of the Court lost captured by a Privateer.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 11, PARA. 2.]

Upon receiving the news of the loss of our settlements in Bengal and the recovery of them again, we immediately despatched the Expedition Packet with a short letter, dated the 3rd of August, a duplicate whereof is now sent by this conveyance on the *Hardwicke*. She left the Downs on the 14th of the same month, but had the misfortune to be taken by a Privateer the 29th, and was carried into Vigo in Spain, where Captain Barton and all the ship's company were set at liberty, although the packets were destroyed. Some material parts extracted from the said letter and signed by us were preserved, and the Captain and his son are gone forward with them overland by the way of Aleppo and Bussorah.†

219.—*Ten Malabar Men transported as slaves to St. Helena.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 11, PARA. 24.]

The Chief and Council of Anjengo having ordered ten Malabar men to be transported to St. Helera as slaves (who had been officers to the King of Travencore) five of them soon after their arrival desperately

* Mr. Holwell as Zemindar of Calcutta increased the revenues very much, his salary was fixed at Rs. 500 monthly in lieu of all fees and perquisites whatever.

† Despatches were frequently sent by this route, the news of the Victory of Plassey was transmitted in the same channel; Despatches were sent in triplicate and by different ships.

hanged themselves, and the survivors threaten to destroy themselves rather than submit to any kind of work. We mention this instance only, though we could point out others, to prevent your sending such kind of people, delinquents or malefactors of any sort, to that Island, as the Governor and Council have represented that the having such desperate fellows upon the Island may be attended with bad consequences. This is a general order to all our settlements.

220.—*Conduct to be observed towards the Nabob.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER, 11, PARA. 35.]

It is impossible to give you any precise directions for your conduct with respect to the Nabob, as the manner of acting must vary according to circumstances. We must therefore depend upon your prudence and care to act for the best in the various events as they occur, having particular regard however to the recommendations in our last letter to pursue, as much as possible, pacific measures with him, and to endeavour to convince him that it is his as well as the Company's interest to be always on good terms.

221.—*Recovery of some of the papers lost in the capture of Calcutta—Letters in cypher.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 11, PARAS. 42, 43.]

You have desired copies to be sent you of a great number of books and papers, as you advise us all those at Fort William were destroyed on the capture of that place by the Nabob. We have given directions accordingly, and you will receive copies of all such as are apprehended to be material and necessary by the latter ships. But we having reason to believe that some of the books and papers of the latest dates have been returned to you by order of the Nabob, you ought to have sent a list of such to us, which would have been the means of saving much trouble. However, you must not fail of transmitting by the first conveyances for our information an exact list of all the books and papers which have been recovered.

You are to give us a particular account, agreeable to our letter of the 3rd August, whether the cypher which was in Mr. Drake's custody shared the same fate of the other books and papers, or not; if it was saved, a correspondence is to be carried on with whomsoever it may be

necessary according to the original directions, with this addition, that every letter for the future must be signed by the persons sending the same (not in cypher), but in the usual manner of writing their names, by which method we shall be satisfied of the authenticity of every letter and prevent impositions. Should the cypher be really lost, you must write to the President, Fort St. George, to send our President of Fort William for the time being a copy in the most secure manner; and instead of advising our said President and the President of Bombay not to correspond any more in that cypher, as directed in our said letter of the 3rd August, we revoke that direction; and you are to acquaint them all their letters in cypher are to be signed in the usual manner of signing, as before directed with respect to letters from your Presidency.

222.—*Praise to Writers and the Calcutta Volunteers.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 11, PARA. 50.]

Among the writers, Messrs. John Burdett, Henry Lushington, and George Gray, deserve our notice for their sufferings and good behaviour. We therefore direct that they have two years of their time given them, and that they take rank accordingly. We can but express our satisfaction in regard to the behaviour of several of our servants who, after the retaking of Fort William, acted as volunteers and behaved very well in that station.

223.—*A Chaplain appointed—choose Bengal or Madras.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 11, PARA. 59.]

Upon the recommendation of the President and Council of Fort St. George, as well as that from you, we do agree to the Rev. Mr. Richard Cobbs being fixed as one of the Company's Chaplains, and we leave it to him to make his option either for the Presidency of Fort St. George upon the Rev. Mr. Palk's leaving it, or to continue in Bengal to fill up one of the vacancies at your Presidency; and he is to succeed accordingly either at one or the other.

224.—*Omichand's opinion of the English.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 25.]

Mr. Watts writes from Murshidabad.—

Omichund told the Nabob that he had lived under the English protection these forty years and never knew them once to be guilty of

breaking their word—to the truth of which he took his oath by touching a Brahmin's foot—and that if a lie could be proved in England on any one they were spit upon and never trusted.

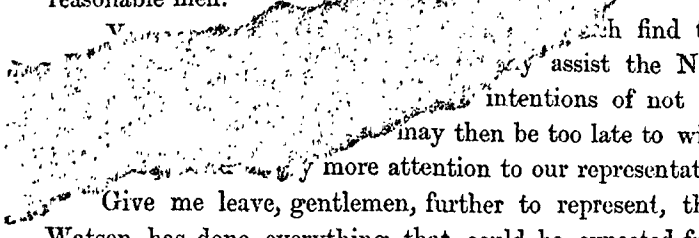
225.—*Clive's letter to Government on Chandernagore affairs.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 4.]

As Mr. Watson has declined accepting of the expedients proposed to him by us in refusing either to attack Chandernagore immediately or enter into such a neutrality with the French as we have recommended to him and which we think greatly for the benefit of the East India Company both in these provinces and on the Coast of Coromandel, I think he has taken the consequences of miscarriages upon himself, as in so doing, if I am not misinformed, he runs counter to His Majesty's instructions, which require that he should give attention to all representations made to him by the Company's Agents in India for the good of their service.

This leads me very seriously to consider the situation of the Company's affairs on the Coast and the positive order I have received from the President and Committee of Madras to return, at all events, with as great a part of the forces under my command as could possibly be spared. This, gentlemen, you are fully acquainted with must be sensible, nothing can induce me to risk any longer my return to the Coast (now rendered very uncertain by the lateness of the season), but the immediate attack of Chandernagore, becomes in my opinion, absolutely necessary if the neutrality be refused. Do but reflect, gentlemen, what will be the opinion of the world of these our late proceedings. Did we not, in consequence of a letter received from the Governor and Council of Chandernagore making offers of a neutrality within the Ganges, in a manner accede to it by desiring they would send deputies, and that we would gladly come into such a neutrality with them; and have we not since their arrival drawn out Articles that were satisfactory to both parties, and agreed that each Article should be reciprocally signed, sealed, and sworn so? What will the Nabob think? After the promises made him on our side, and after his consenting to guarantee this neutrality, he and all the world will certainly think that we are men of a trifling, insignificant disposition, or that we are men without principles. It is therefore incumbent on us to exculpate ourselves by declaring the real truth, that we were entirely ignorant of Mr. Watson's intentions to refuse the neutrality in the manner proposed and settled by us, and that we always thought him

of a contrary opinion to what his letter declares. I am persuaded these must be the sentiments of the gentlemen of the Committee, or they never would have gone such lengths as must expose them to the censure of all reasonable men.



...h find their offers of a ...y assist the Nabob in all his intentions of not complying with ...may then be too late to wish Mr. Watson ...y more attention to our representations.

Give me leave, gentlemen, further to represent, that though Mr. Watson has done everything that could be expected from a brave and gallant man, and has been greatly instrumental towards settling the affairs of this province, that our future operations against the Nabob will chiefly depend upon the land forces, and the officers of such forces must certainly be the best judges of what can be effected by land, and I do take upon me to give it as mine and my officers' opinion that success against the Nabob and the French together will be very precarious, notwithstanding the arrival of the Bombay troops, which fall short in real strength of the detachment on board the *Cumberland*. I must therefore requet you will join with me in desiring Mr. Watson a third time to ratify the neutrality in the manner agreed upon, and if he refuses, to desire he will attack Chandernagore by water immediately, as I am ready to do by land with the forces under my command. If he refuses this likewise, he becomes responsible for every misfortune that may happen to the Company's affairs.

This done, I propose leaving all the forces I can possibly spare for the defence of the Company's settlements, rights, and privileges in Bengal, and return with the rest immediately to the Coast, agreeable to the positive orders received from the President and Committee of Madras, and I must request you will order proper conveyances for the purpose.

I am, &c.,

* *Calcutta, 4th March*, 1757. (Signed) ROBERT CLIVE.

* On the other side, as opposed to a treaty of neutrality within the Ganges, a number of Members of Government considered the French were notorious for breach of faith and violation of treaties—it was doubtful whether such a treaty was binding on the Commanders of French ships—and the Nawab's guarantee would be little worth, as he was of a fickle and uncertain disposition. The treaty was drawn up, agreed on unanimously, and before signature, was sent at once to Admiral Watson. He objected to it on the ground that it must be sent to Pondicherry, which involved a delay of two months; it might not be ratified, and then the English fleet would be away, no reliance could be placed on the Nawab's guarantee. The Council altered their opinions under these circumstances and resolved to attack Chandernagore.

226.—*Interdict against Roman Catholic priests and their religion.*

[JANUARY 31, PARA. 14.]

The inconveniences [illegible] of Calcutta from the prodigious number of [illegible] security into the Fort, the very [illegible] are of to the Settlement, added to the [illegible] France, in which case we had reason to suppo[illegible] take up arms against an enemy of their own religion, (should [illegible] attacked) induced us, upon our return, to interdict the public exercise of the Roman Catholic religion, and to forbid the residence of their priests in our bounds.*

227.—*Black Merchants and Armenians put under some regulations.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, JANUARY 31, PARA. 35.]

Judging it necessary to put the black Merchants and Armenians under some regulations in future, we shall take into consideration, when we have more leisure upon what footing to admit their residence within our bounds.†

228.—*Bengal Civilians to go to Bussora to study Persian.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, FEBRUARY 23, PARA. 14.]

The great utility of having Europeans skilled in the Persian language we have been more than ever sensible of during the late transactions with the country government. To attain a proper degree of perfection either at Calcutta or in subordinates is almost impossible, as it requires a closer attention than gentlemen engaged in other businesses can give, besides which the teachers in that tongue are not

* Clive at this time complained that "the Padrees and other engines were employed to facilitate the escape of the French prisoners from Chandernagore." Religion was mixed up with politics; even the Select Committee's Proceedings of 1757 give an extract of a letter from a Dr. Bushing of Gottingen, stating the to him alarming account of a league between the Protestant powers of England and Prussia on one side, and the Romanists of France and Austria on the other, joined by Poland, while "70,000 Muscovites are on the march against Prussia."

† No regulations were made, as it was found difficult to frame one which "would not discourage the black inhabitants living among us."

masters of it themselves. For these reasons we beg leave to recommend to your Honours to send by the first ships bound to Bombay after the arrival of these advices, five young gentlemen, covenanted for our establishment, to reside at Bussora, and to send annually two others upon the same footing, that we may not be disappointed by casualties. These gentlemen to study the Persian tongue and nothing else, to rise in the service as your other servants do, receiving such allowance and salary during their stay as you may judge fit, and when qualified to be of use, to come to Bengal and take their standing according to their rank in the service; to which we esteem to be the most effectual method of getting Europeans perfected in the pure genuine Persian speech and literature, and we dare say will be attended with many future advantages to the Company's affairs.

229.—*Clive's apprehension regarding Arrack drinking.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, APRIL 16, PARA. 2.]

I continue encamped about a mile to the northward of Chandernagore, to which ground I find it necessary to move to put a stop to the disorders among the military by the too easy procurance of arrack in the town.

R. CLIVE.

Camp, Chandernagore, April 16th.*

230.—*Clive's opinion of Chandernagore.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, APRIL 16, PARA. 11.]

When Chandernagore is considered as the granary of the Islands, and Pondichery as mistress of a great trade to Europe and round India, as a large and opulent colony already, and which seemed to promise to increase, the loss of it must be acknowledged a very severe blow to the French Company and nation. The destruction of this flourishing colony will, I am persuaded, be attended with many signal advantages to the trade of the East India Company.†

* The troops at this hot season were in tents, but Clive was watching the movements of "that weak and capricious prince," the Nawab.

† All the French shipping was sunk at Chandernagore before the capture.—*Ed.*

231.—*President's motion about Natives and Black inhabitants returning to Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 20.]

The President requires the consideration of the Board whether the Black Merchants and other natives, late inhabitants of Calcutta, are not subject to be drove from us with the loss of any property now to be found in Calcutta and the districts thereof; they not having appeared in any shape thoughtful that they were under our protection. Further, whether the permitting them to return and remain in our districts will cause infinite applications and litigiousness, if they are accounted as our subjects and so receive their property; he therefore desires the Board will determine whether it is proper to permit their return within our bounds, and under what limits and regulations.

The Board are of opinion that all natives and black inhabitants who have not engaged in the service of our enemy during our troubles should be restored to their houses and property found in the place; but as they neglected to secure the outskirts of the town, when they were required to do it, or to lend any assistance in the defence of the place, we are of opinion they have forfeited all right and title to any restitution of the damages they have suffered.

232.—*Omichand's effects to be sequestered for disloyalty.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 20.]

Omichand, his behaviour during the siege of Calcutta, his conduct since, and the universal notion that prevails of his having been aiding in the councils of our enemies, giving great room to suspect his having been directly or indirectly concerned in involving the Settlement in the late troubles—

Agreed that all his houses, tenures, grounds and effects be for the present attached and sequestered, and that all his perishable effects be sold by our Agents, and the amount deposited in the Treasury till some determination is come to concerning Omichand.*

---

* The attachment of Omichand's effects was waved, as "we found it impossible to ascertain if he had been directly concerned in involving the Settlement in the troubles and disgrace we underwent."

233.—*Militia to be formed and weavers to be encouraged.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 26.]

The war with France making it necessary to provide for our defence in the best manner we can—Agreed a militia be formed and established under the command of Major Killpatrick with proper rules and regulations. This being a proper time to encourage the residence of weavers within our bounds,

Ordered the Zemindar to advertise that we will protect their possessions and show them favor and encouragement.

234.—*Bulramgur Factory attacked by Raja Ram Sing.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 9.]

Messrs. Baddam and Playdell being returned from Bulramgur inform the Board they were obliged to leave that place without waiting our orders, Raja Ram Sing with a party of 2,500 men having surrounded the Factory.

235.—*Expenses of the English on board ship at Fulta.*—*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 14.]

Captain Peter Dickson delivers in the following accounts, *viz.* :—

1 Bill for allowances for the inhabitants on board from 1st October to 31st December at Rs. 50 per mensem each, amounting to Rs. 1,708-5-3.

1 ditto for diet expenses of the inhabitants on board for part of the month of September, amount Rs. 142-0-0.

Mr. Colin Campbell likewise delivers in the following accounts, *viz.* :—

Expenses of the sloop *Dragon* from 26th July to 16th December 1756, amount Rs. 742-0-8.

---

* When the English quitted the Fort, they and the Government remained for several months on board ship at Fulta. Some of the provisions were supplied by Nobokissen at the risk of his life,—the Nawab prohibited under penalty of death any one supplying the English. This led to Warren Hastings taking Nobokissen as his *Munshi* and the subsequent elevation of his family.

1 Bill for wages as Commander of sloop *Dragon* from 6th June to 6th December at Rs. 75 per month, amount Rs. 450-0-0.

1 ditto for diet expenses of the inhabitants on board from 26th July to 26th September, amount Rs. 364-0-0.

Dr. George Gray sends in a note for wine, &c., for the use of the sick, amount Rs. 336-0-0.

236.—*Allowances to Civil Servants for Diet.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 14.]

The Factory House, Company's house, and all the apartments for the senior and junior servants being entirely destroyed by the Moors, the Board are of opinion that an allowance should be made the covenanted servants in lieu of habitation and in consideration of the late calamity by which the articles of provisions and other necessaries are grown dearer than formerly, whereby the inhabitants are rendered incapable of subsisting themselves. Agreed the following allowances be made:—

The President ...	...	Rs.	300 per month.
Each Member of Council	...	„	100 „
Senior and junior Merchants	...	„	70 „
Factors and writers ...	...	„	40 „

to commence from the 1st January 1757.

237.—*Palanquin with silver tassels bought for Cossimbazar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 28.]

Agreed likewise that we pay at Rs. 400 for a palanquin purchased for the use of Cossimbazar Factory set with silver tassels, &c.

238.—*Coolies wounded and killed at Chandernagore, their families to be rewarded.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 7.]

The Buxey acquaints the Board that several cooley and mooteas who were employed at the siege of Chandernagore have been killed and wounded, whose families have applied to him for a reward. Agreed we

do reward such as have been wounded and the families of those who were killed as far as 8 or 10 rupees to each, for their encouragement to serve on the like occasion in future.

239.—*Captain Barker's report on a new Fort for Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 2.]

To the Hon'ble the President and Council of Fort William.

HONORED SIR AND SIRS,—Agreeable to a request made by the Governor I have examined the ground to the eastward of present Fort, and am of opinion that, with a very little expense, a proper spot of ground might be cleared about 600 yards directly east of it sufficient for a Fort and Esplanade round it of seven or eight hundred yards, by pulling down six or seven of the principal or upper-roomed houses, as all the rest from the east of Lady Russell's House to the Bread and Cheese bungalow are houses of no consequence and black people's huts, and to the north and south huts with a few lower-roomed houses, so that nothing more is required than an avenue to the river which is near already done, and would be completely so were the houses cleared away from the Court House to Mr. Cooke's house when the old Fort is pulled down. My reasons for pitching on this spot are as follows:—

First, it appears to be the highest and consequently the most wholesome part near the Town without retiring at too great a distance, besides the command it will have over the adjacent parts.

Secondly, it may be erected at such a convenient distance from the river that no ships whatever will be able to batter or even hurt the walls and yet be of no detriment to the expedition of business, as a canal may be brought from the river close to the Fort and have wharfs and quays with cranes for the embarking and disembarking of goods in boats, and at the same time furnish the town with water by having pipes of communication under ground to large cisterns for that purpose in the Fort, may also supply the ditches with water with proper sluices to retain or let it out at low tides. The large tank will contribute greatly to the accomplishing this canal, since the length of it is near one-third finished to our hands.

Thirdly, it will, by being placed in the centre of the town, retain all the advantages the old Fort had, such as the conveniency of the inhabitants living near the factory for the expedition of busines.., the protection that such a place has over a town without deserting or destroying it, which would soon be the consequence was it built at any distance from the present town, the black merchants would then return to their respective houses in security, and the superstitious notion that these country people have always retained for an old town wherein their generation was bred and born would still continue, so that in a little time the place would be as populous as ever, if not more so.

Fourthly, that by being built so near the old Fort it will be protected from any results which might otherwise happen if at a distance, and the people or the works

are not so liable to be disturbed by any alarms which would retard the works and oblige them to run away; that by being so near the town the work-people would be at hand and consequently be on the works sooner and work later than they could do was it at any distance.

Fifthly, that limits might be appointed by having small flags or posts set up at certain distances by which no persons should build within those bounds, so that in a length of time the Esplanade might be increased to what distance might be thought proper, and the Fort would soon become the centre of the town.

Sixthly, that this scheme will be no hindrance to the project proposed by Colonel Scott; on the contrary rather an advantage, for as the Colonel intended securing the whole town by building redoubts at certain distances and having a ditch entirely round the whole, it may at any time be put in execution whenever the Company pleases, and the intended Fort, when the town can be no longer defended, will be a secure retreat and act as a citadel to the whole. Batteries may be built on any convenient points of land to retard ships in coming up the river, with safe retreat to the Fort, and it will not be unnecessary to have a line of guns on each side the canal at the river side, constructed on a method proper for the fighting of ships, and—

Lastly, I humbly presumed it will be necessary to secure the old Fort in the best manner possible, as the defence of the new one will entirely depend on it till such times it is capable of defending itself, to do which it will be necessary to rebuild the parapets of the four bastions, repair the battery on the river side and pallisade the new works, which will contribute greatly to its security in the rains, and may be easily executed as near the quantity sufficient can be had from Chandernagore.

If this has the honor to meet with the approbation of the President and Council and they think proper to fix on that spot of ground for a new Fort, I believe a method might be pitched upon whereby the ground could be cleared away with expedition during the rains, and everything made ready for the beginning such a work after they were over.

But in the mean time humbly beg your honor's authority to carry on what works are in hand by an order from the President and Council, as at present I have none, being sorry to inform you that the works have been greatly retarded for want of such authority, and as I have the honor to fill the employ of Engineer and Captain of Artillery in the Settlement, beg your further indulgence of such privileges as were allowed those gentlemen who supplied these places before me, and I shall always make it my study to execute any trust you may think fit to repose in me to the utmost of my abilities, and am with all possible esteem and respect.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 2nd May 1757.

HONBLE AND SIRS,
Your most obedient & hble servant,
(Signed) ROBT. PARKER.

240.—*Workmen to be incorporated and elect a head-man.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 7.]

All Weavers, Carpenters, Bricklayers, Smiths, Tailors, Braziers, &c. Handicraft, shall be incorporated into their respective bodies, one in each district of the town, each body to elect a Chowdree or head person to represent them, the Mundells of every district to deliver in an account monthly to the Jemindar of every artificer residing within his limits, as well tenants as lodgers and sojourners, and shall make a report immediately to the Jemindar of any stranger of importance coming within his district and the place or house of his abode, and of any new ryots or inhabitants, as also of any persons removing from their place of habitation without his district, and every person's name under their respective bodies shall be entered in the Jemindar's books, the Chowdree of every respective body shall lay before the Jemindar the just and true rates of all kinds of labour and work, what the labourer shall be allowed per day and the artificer be paid for his work in every branch of his trade, those rates to be laid by the Jemindar before the Governor and Council and to be regulated by them and entered in the Jemindar's books. Every artificer shall take out a license from the Jemindar for the free use of his trade within the Company's limits, who shall pay one quarter of a month's wages for his license, which shall continue in force for one whole year and no longer, and in case any person shall be found exercising his trade or employment without license he shall be fined a month's pay, or, if an artificer, at the discretion of the *aridge duckle*. The Mundells of each district shall bring an account to the Jemindar of the several ducandars or shopkeepers within his district, of all sorts and kinds whatever, each ranked under their respective denominations, and the Jemindar is to lay this report before the Governor and Council, who will order them licenses under such restrictions as they shall think proper. The Jemindar shall keep books, where every farm, their several duties, ground rent collected, and every charge shall be minutely inserted, which accounts shall be delivered to the Board monthly, and he shall deliver to the Board a set of books of his transactions, to be transmitted annually to the Company.*

* This was substantially the same plan as that pursued in the old village communities of India, and which is carried out at the present day in Russia under the name of Artel, where the plan is much approved of by the merchants; it works well in securing the working classes against the avarice of the middlemen and is cheaper for the merchant. A merchant of Calcutta, Mr. Percival J. Waite, who was an English Merchant in St. Petersburgh, has lately proposed the introduction of the plan into Calcutta, thus rescuing coolies out of the hands of Sirkars who cheat both the merchants and the coolies.—*Ed.*

241.—*Handsome table expenses allowed the French Governor and Council.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 9.]

The French Director and Council being kept here as close prisoners, and requesting their Table expenses may be supplied by the Company, it is thought reasonable to subsist them in a manner suitable to their rank. Ordered Mr. Boddam therefore to take the care of that affair upon him, and to provide them with a handsome table during their remaining in Calcutta as prisoners.

242.—*An Assistant in the Secretariat on* 30 *rupees monthly.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 16.]

There being a necessity for another assistant in the Secretary's Office,—agreed we entertain John Woodward as a monthly writer with an allowance of 30 rupees per month.

243.—*Coolies at Fort William cheated out of their pay.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 13.]

There is another very considerable circumstance which is detrimental to the service, and that is the paying the coolies (or rather the method of paying the coolies) in cowries: this occasions great disputes, and I have often been drove off the works by the clamours of the people not having received cowries for four or five days. Upon enquiring into the affair I was told the cowries are not counted out, or that the head-men are paid and have not yet distributed the *cowries* shares to the coolies, by which means 30 or 40 coolies walk off and their pay becomes the profit of the head-men jointly with the Bunnyas. Then, by the coolies receiving their pay in cowries, the Bunnyas and head-men have the conveniency of stopping a small number out of each man's share, which they call custom, and the coolies have complained to me that 15 or 20 cowries per day have been deducted in this manner; but these and a great many other bad methods might be broke which at present is called custom, the Company would then be better served and the coolies satisfied, they would then continue in the works, learn any method that would be desired, and we should not have fresh coolies to teach every day.

244.—*The Great Lake a defence of Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 1.]

Received two letters from Robert Clive Esq., &c., Members of Council at Moorshedabad, dated the 23rd and 27th July. The first advising of Mr. Watts, his choosing to continue Chief of Cossim. The other informing us that the Canoongoe's man had set out from thence to take an account, on the behalf of the Nabob, of the lands, villages, districts, revenues, &c., particulars of the Territory from the Great Lake, eastward of Calcutta, as for as Culpee south; but as it may be impossible to determine a proper boundary merely from the report of these people, they recommend it as a concern worthy our most diligent and serious attention, whether the best method would not be to send boats on the Great Lake with directions to trace its source, examine its depth, &c. That other boats might be sent into Culpee River, and if the design is executed by experienced men, an exact and useful survey may be made which will enable us to settle beneficial boundaries; for if the lake, as is conjectured, has its rise adjacent to Culpee, our territory will then be nearly surrounded by water, and by a communication from Bagh Bazar to Kissnapore on the borders of the Lake, Calcutta may be effectually secured from any country enemy.

245.—*A Surveyor for the 24-Pergunahs wanted from the fleet.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 13.]

To the President and Council of Fort William.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received your letter of this day's date acquainting me with the necessity you are under of having an exact survey and regular plan of the lands granted the Company by the Nabob, and requesting I would assist you from the Squadron with such men as are properly qualified for such an undertaking.

It appears to me to be a work requiring so much care and exactness, that I know of none in the squadron capable of it, and if there were I am very certain such a performance would require much more time than I shall continue here. But if upon an enquiry in the squadron you find any one who will answer your purpose and is willing to remain in India, I will give orders for his being discharged.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,
CHAS. WATSON.

CALCUTTA,
The 3rd August, 1757.

246.—*Cuttack.—Importance of a Residency in—*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 8.]

To THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—I beg leave to congratulate you on our late success, and humbly refer to your consideration whether I may hoist our flag here or not. Should your honor &c., think proper to have a continual Resident here, I have been offered the choice of any place I think fit for our purpose; as we are seldom likely to be free from the intrigues of the French, and as these people are very desirous of our having a factory here, I think we should not lose this opportunity. Our flag will induce numbers to reside here, and the conveniences arising from it will endear them to our interest; they are in great want of all Europe commodities, and by having them procured by our means will establish them in our interest. Accompanying this you will receive letters from Rama Pundit and Dedar Ally. Rama Pundit has much power, is a good man and begs your favor, has forces at his command, and is ready to employ them as you shall give your orders. Dedar Ally is young, but as he is Mirza Salle's son, and the present acting Nabob is much respected. At my first arrival here he was represented as much deficient in understanding, but I find no such thing; he is extremely good natured, and has done and is always ready to do me all favours in his power. The news of Vizagapatam's surrender to Mr. Bussey has not yet reached here. Since my last nothing material has occurred, I therefore beg leave to conclude.

With all due respect,
HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,
Your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN BRISTOW.

CUTTACK, NIGHT *of 24th July*, 1757.

247.—*Prices of brick and chunam.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 26.]

The Committee of Works inform the Board they can contract with brick makers and others for the following materials:—

Bricks of the Company's mould at 3-10 per mille, for as many as may be wanted.

Chunam at Rs. 39 per 100 mauuds for 40,000 maunds.

Rattan baskets at 8 per rupee, for as many as are wanted, which prices being esteemed reasonable, the Board empower them to make contracts on the above terms.

248.—*Surgeon's Bill.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 3.]

The Surgeon at Chinsurah having attended and taken care of several of our military who were wounded at the siege of Calcutta and went up to that place after the capture of the settlement, now sends in a Bill for medicines and attendance amounting to At. Rs. 650.

249.—*Salaries of Company's Servants.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 3.]

Salaries.—Account salary due to the Hon'ble Company's Covenanted Servants for six months,* from the 25th March to the 29th September 1757 :—

The Hon'ble Roger Drake Esquire—						
Salary 6 months at £200 per annum ...	800	0	0			
Gratuity 6 months at £100 per annum ...	400	0	0			
				1,200	0	0
Charles Manningham Esq.—						
Salary 6 months at £40 per annum ...	160	0	0			
Gratuity 6 months at Rs. 4,000 per annum	1,777	12	6			
				1,937	12	6
Major James Killpatrick—						
Salary 6 months at £40 per annum				160	0	0
Richard Becher Esq., do. do.				160	0	0
				3,457	12	6
William Frankland Esq., salary 6 months at £40 per annum				160	0	0
Matthew Collet Esq., salary 6 months at £40 per annum				160	0	0
William Mackett Esq., do. 6 do. do. do. ...				160	0	0
Peter Amyalt, Esq., do. 6 do. do. do. ...				160	0	0
Thomas Boddam, Esq., do. 6 do. do. do. ...				160	0	0
						4,257 12 6
Carried over ...						4,257 12 6

* It was common then to pay salaries every six months, but men had other perquisites and therefore the delay was not so inconvenient. Private trade brought in far more profit.

				Brought forward ...				4,257	12 6
The Revd. Mr. Richard Cobbe—									
	m.	d.		£	s.	d.			
Salary at £ 50 per annum,	4	3	...	17	9	4	139 11 6		
Gratuity £ 50 ditto	4	3	...	17	9	4	139 11 6		
								279	7 0
Senior merchants at £ 40 per annum—									
Messrs. Richard Court—									
Salary 6 months ...			...	160	0	0			
Gratuity as Sub- Accomptt., 6 months			...	250	0	0			
Do. as Sub-Zemindar do.			...	250	0	0			
Do. for keeping the Major's Court Book				125	0	0			
							785 0 0		
John Cooke—									
Salary 6 months			...	160	0	0			
Gratuity as Secretary Rs. 1,000 per annum				500	0	0			
							660 0 0		
								1,445	0 0
Junior merchants at £ 30 per annum—									
Messrs. Luke Scrafton, salary 6 months ...							120 0 0		
William Ellis, do. as Factor 3-21-0			£	4	12	6			
			Rs.	37	0	0			
Ditto as junior merchant									
2 13 0 £ 6 1 8			„	48	10	6			
							85 10 6		
Culling Smith—									
Salary as Factor 2 21 0			£ 4 12 6	„	37	0	0		
As junior merchant 2 13 0			„ 6 1 8	„	48	10	6		
Gratuity as Sub-Import Warehouse keeper			...	Rs.	250	0	0		
							335 10 6		
Factors at £ 15 per annum—									
Messrs. Charles O'Hara,									
Salary 6 months ...			...	60	0	0			
Gratuity as Sub Treasurer			...	250	0	0			
							310 0 0		
William Rider, salary 6 months			...				60 0 0		
John Johnstone, do. 6 do.			...				60 0 0		
Francis Sykes do. 6 do.			...				60 0 0		
								1,031	5 0
								7,013	8 6
Doctors at £ 36 per annum—									
Messrs. George Gray,			salary 6 months ...				144 0 0		
William Fullerton			„ 6 do. ...				144 0 0		
								288	0 0
				Carried over ...				7,301	8 6

				Brought forward	...			7,301	8 6
Writers at £ 5 per annum—									
Messrs.	William Hay	salary	6	months	...	20	0 0		
	Randolph Marriott	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Ascanius William Senior	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	John Chambers	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Willis Orr	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Ralph Leycester	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Samuel Howitt	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	John Burdett	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Henry Lushington	„	6	do.	..	20	0 0		
	Francis Charlton	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	George Gray, junior	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Thomas French	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	George Williamson	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Charles Rogers	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Edward Oakes	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	William Shewen	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	William Smith	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	John Smith	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
	Phillip Dacres	„	6	do.	...	20	0 0		
								380	0 0
				Sicca Rupees	...			7,681	8 6
				Batta 12-8 per cent.	...			960	3 0
				Current Rupees	...			8,641	11 6

Errors Excepted,
RICHARD BECHER,
Accomptt.

250.—*By Treaty with Burmah, Negrais granted.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 10.]

Enclosed in the above we received the duplicate of a letter from Mr. Thomas Newton, dated the 27th August, the original of which had been received but omitted to be extracted on the face of our Consultations, which informs us of the agreeable news of having fully completed a Treaty with the Burmah King, in which is a full and free grant to the Hon'ble Company and their successors of the Island Negraise, together with a tract or spot of ground for a Factory at Persiem (*Sic in orig.*)

251.—*Berhampore Fort. Anna instead of Cowrie payments.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 18.]

To THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council of Fort William.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—In consequence of your letter of the 24th ultimo, which I duly received on the 29th at Cossimbazar, I returned here the 5th instant. The principal part of the Factory house at that place having been burnt down by the Moors, requires a new one to be built in a good pentagone capable of containing the necessary Civil and Military buildings for the Company's servants and the troops which may be ordered for its defence, as well as for other purposes.

The fortifications of that Factory are incapable of being repaired usefully, or of being enlarged by the number of buildings which surround them, as it would cost more money to purchase the ground wanted for it and an esplanade than to build a new Fort on a clear spot of ground, which I conceive may be obtained from the Nabob in Berhampore plain at the south end of Cossimbazar, where a pentagone may be erected, and by removing a few huts and levelling some hedges have an esplanade of seven hundred yards round it.

I have now the honor to lay before you a plan of a citadel and of the fortifications which I conceive necessary to enclose this place, and which may be begun upon immediately if it meets with your approbation.

In this grand undertaking it is necessary to procure as many tank diggers as possible; there are some at Cossimbazar, which, with a little encouragement, I believe may be brought down here, and I conceive the Nabob, on being applied to, will order the number we want, and I am certain I can employ 12,000 of those people, exclusively of four or five thousand coolies to ram the ground, clear away the rubbish, fill tanks, bring in brushwood, serve the bricklayers, and to many uses unforeseen.

The contractors for bricks and chunam must immediately bring in such part of their supplies as they may have got ready. I shall pitch upon the ground at Gobindpore proper for their reception, and for the respective yards for the carpenters and smiths to prepare the mills for grinding the mortar for standing and draw bridges—and the timber work of the Civil and Military buildings to be built within the citadel.

Whatever tools for carpenters or smiths come out from Europe on the Company's account must be kept for their use, as we shall want them to forward the works.

As subordination is necessary in all public works to carry them on in a frugal as well as skilful manner, I must desire that all the Company's artificers or coolies may be immediately under my orders and direction, as they have been at Madras and St. David's these seven years past that I have had the honor to serve the Company; who by their general letter of the 24th January 1753 ordered that all the repairs of their buildings, Civil and Military, should be under the direction of their Engineer, as indeed they had been since Mr. Robinson's arrival in India.

I must request that a store-keeper may be appointed by the Committee of works to keep such materials as they will contract for, and to issue them out as wanted for the service, upon my orders or such other persons as I shall appoint to receive them.

The payment of the artificers and coolies in cowries being extremely tedious, it would be necessary absolutely to coin annas either in silver or copper, and to facilitate the exchange of them a shroff or two of the Company's should attend upon the works with cowries for that purpose, who should be forbid gaining any thing by that exchange that those people may not be losers on the money they receive for their hire, otherwise it will be such a discouragement as will hinder them from coming to the works.—J. BROHIER.

252.—*The Rajah of Bishenpore*, exacting on the English.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 3.]

The Committee of correspondence to the Aurungs lay before the Board letters from the Malda and Soonamooky Gomastahs, complaining of ill usage of our people, peons and others, and that the Raja of Bishenpore pays no regard to the Nabob's Sunnud and Perwannahs, but insists on the usual duties from the English as they paid before.

Agreed we write to Mr. Scrofton and direct him to represent these complaints at the Durbar and insist on the Zemindars being punished in an exemplary manner who used our people so ill near Malda, and that he use his utmost endeavours to prevent Coja Wajeid's obtaining an exclusive Perwannah for the purchase of Potri at Patna.

253.—*Madeira Wine.—distribution of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

Admiral Pocock having applied for 35 Pipes of Madeira Wine for the use of the Commander and Officers of the squadron on the same terms as the junior covenanted servants are allowed to take it out. Agreed the Import Warehouse-keeper do deliver 36 pipes for the use of the squadron at 30 per cent. on the cost and charges, and that the Military Officers be likewise allowed to take it out on those terms, every Captain one pipe and one pipe between two subalterns.

* The Raja of Bishenpur was the head of the oldest family in Bengal, reckoning 50 generations and holding a tract of territory as extensive as Wales.

254.—*Natives' petition for payment of provisions sent for the siege.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

TO THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council.*

The humble Petition of Gungaram Tagore and Locoor Sircar, both Merchants in Calcutta.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That your Petitioners having supplied the Buxeyconnah with rice and gunnies when the Nabob marched on the place in June 1756 confide in your goodness to be paid the amount of what they sent into the Factory at the desire and orders of the Zemindar, as they are informed all other Merchants and Dooandars have been paid by your orders. This late application they hope your Honor, &c., will pardon, as they are but lately returned to Calcutta from up the country. Your Petitioners beg leave to acquaint your Honor, &c., they did apply to the Secretary for an order for payment, upon hearing that the Ducan people and others had been reimbursed, but was told that your Honor had the day before passed an order not to admit of any more claims of this kind. As your Petitioners were not in the place till lately, and as this application to the Secretary was but one day after your Honor's resolution to admit of no more claims on account of provisions and stores delivered in for the siege, they hope your Honors will take their cause into consideration, and order payment of their demand, as they are poor persons and in great need of it, which shall ever be acknowledged as an obligation.

255.—*French prisoners escape by undermining the Jail.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 19.]

The President informs the Committee that the French prisoners who were confined in the Jail made their escape last night by digging underground.*

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* This Jail stood at the Lall Bazar, where it is crossed by the Chitpoor Road; as late as this century the ground near it was used for public executions.

256.—*Petition for establishing a Calcutta Militia.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 20.]

TO THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—The state of this Settlement renders it unnecessary for us to set forth the necessity of every individual being of service to the same, we the underwritten do therefore, out of pure zeal for our country's cause and the defence of this Colony, beg leave to apply to your honors for your permission to associate ourselves into a corps under the denomination of the Patriot Band, to be commanded by officers elected by ourselves and of our own body, and under our own regulations, without being subject to Military Laws, and as the intent of this institution is to instruct ourselves in Military discipline, and by that acquisition to render ourselves serviceable when occasion requires, we doubt not of your ready compliance and sanction to a design so laudable, and to an institution which both reason and experience convince us may be of the greatest utility when properly supported. But as we would not choose to be incorporated with any Military Corps but to act in a body distinct from all others, under the immediate direction of the Governor of Fort William or Commander-in-Chief for the time being, and that our good intentions for the public service may not be frustrated by any disputes of rank whenever we voluntarily choose to act in an expedition with the army. We request that formal Commissions may be granted to our officers empowering them to command the Patriot Band distinct, as is practised in the Grenadier Companies of all Battalions. We likewise request your Honor, &c., will supply us with arms and accoutrements which we presume may be had from the spare arms of those who have died belonging to His Majesty's detachment.

We are with great respect,

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Your most obedient humble servants,

WILLIAM RIDER,
JOHN JOHNSTONE,
EDWARD OAKES, WILLIAM SMITH,
JOHN SMITH, E. BARWELL,
C. ROGERS, JOHN BURDETT,
CULLING SMITH,
A. W. SENIOR,
THOMAS HEWITT,
H. PYBUS, JOHN SMITH, *Junior*,
J. HOWITT, W. HOLLAND,
EDWARD RIDGE, WILL. SHEWIN,
W. POWREY,
PHILIP DACRES,
JOHN LOWIS,
GEORGE DUNDAS,
ROBERT GREGORY,
PETER DICKSON,
GEO. WILLIAMSON.

CALCUTTA;
15*th December*, 1757.

257.—*Native runaways to Chandernagore caught.**

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 20.]

To THE HON'BLE ROGER DRAKE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council.*

The humble petition of Brigoo Doolall, Nattoo Kirty, and Sam Cotmah, inhabitants and merchants in Calcutta.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That Canto Cotmah and Poran Cotmah, relations to your petitioners, hath some time in the year 1750 taken all your petitioners' fortunes, with private interest, bonds, and several English and French Company's bonds, &c., clandestinely made their flight in the night to Chandernagore under the French colours. This affair was at that time made known to your honor, &c., by which the payments of the two bonds on the English Company were stopped. Now, as it has pleased Providence to destroy Chandernagore, and they are come down to this place, therefore your petitioners requesting your honor, &c., will take this case into consideration, and in justice pay off the amount of the two bonds on the English Company to your petitioners; and further begs your honor, &c. most candid determination regarding the other bonds, &c., in the hands of said Canto and Poran Cotmah, and hopes your honor, &c., will grant such orders for the immediate satisfaction to your petitioners as will seem meet to your honor, &c., otherwise they may again abscond from this place.

Your petitioners shall ever pray, and so forth.

258.—*The French within three hours' march of Suraja Dowla when he was taken.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, JULY 26.]

Monsr. Law and his party came down as far as Rajmahaul to Suraja Dowla's assistance, and were within three hours' march of him when he was taken; as soon as they heard of his misfortune, they returned by forced marches and passed Patna.

259.—*Value of lands south of Calcutta.*

[CLIVE'S LETTERS TO COURT, JULY 26.]

It is impossible as yet to form a judgment how much the granted lands will produce you, as the Europeans are quite ignorant of the extent of the country between the river and lake; but in order to give you

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* Chandernagore has continued up to this period to be the Alsatia of debtors flying from British territory.

some idea of the value, I will venture to estimate it at ten lacs per annum. An Officer on the part of the Nabob is already despatched to Calcutta to begin the survey in company with one of ours.*

260.—*Clive on European Agents.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, JULY 26.]

I persuade myself the importance of your possessions now in Bengal will determine you to send out, not only a large and early supply of Troops and good Officers, but of capable young gentlemen for the Civil branches of your business.

261.—*Clive's opinion of Omichund.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 6.]

Omichund had merited well while acting in concert with Mr. Watts, but I had reason to think his intriguing disposition was carrying him too far in the pursuit of his private interest, therefore recommended to him a visit of devotion to Malda. He is a person capable of rendering you great services while properly restrained, therefore not to be wholly discarded.

262.—*Clive's health.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 6.]

For my own part be assured gentlemen that it is solely a desire of seeing your affairs, important as they now are, firmly established, that detains me in Bengal. The Nabob's generosity has enabled me to live

* "The difficulty of getting in ready money from the Durbar what they promised, led the Company 'to insist on the sufficient assignment on the revenue of some country near Calcutta for the annual payment of money still due by treaty, together with proper writings for the zemindars of such country for the same regular discharge.' The Nawab desired the Government would send for the zemindars of the 38 villages to be held by the English Company and agree with them for the possession of their towns and lands. The President in Council accordingly wrote, demanding of them the terms they wanted for ceding the zemindary and possession of the 38 villages mentioned in the Government Phirimaund. A survey was made of the whole, and particularly of the Salt Water or Great Lake as it was then called, being much larger than it is now, the silting process going on over Bengal having affected that Lake also. Captain Barker, in 1757-58, sent to the Court a plan of the Lake and its communications; it would be interesting to get this now, when a Company is formed for its reclamation."

with satisfaction in England, and the frequent attacks I have here of a nervous disorder make me very desirous of an opportunity of changing this climate.*

256.—*Double decling or intercepted letters of Suraja Dowla.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 6.]

Some of Suraja Dowla's letters to the French having fallen into my hands, I enclose a translate of them just to show you the necessity we were reduced to of attempting his overthrow. I was fully apprized of all his proceedings by means of Mr. Watts, with whom I kept up a very full correspondence, too voluminous indeed to transmit you a transcipt of, at least at this opportunity. I must here do that gentleman the justice to say his services at the Durbar have been very great, as well in promoting the ruin of the French, as in negotiating the treaty with Jaffer Ally Cawn.

No. I.—Supposed to be written in the latter end of February 1757.

Suraja Dowla to the exalted in station, greatest among great Officers, the support of friendship, Monsr. Busie, Bahadre.

These disturbers of my country, the Admiral and Colonel Clive, Sabut Jung, whom bad fortune attends, without any reason whatever, are warring against Zubdalook Toojah, Monsr. Rennault, the Governor of Chandernagore. This you will learn from his letters. I, who in all things seek the good of mankind, assist him in every respect, and have sent him the best of my troops that he may join with them and fight the English, and if it becomes necessary I will join him myself. I hope in God these English, who are unfortunate, will be punished for the disturbances they have raised. Be confident. Look on my forces as your own. I have written you before for two thousand soldiers and musqueteers under the command of one or two trusty Chiefs. I persuade myself you have already sent them as I desired. Should you not, I desire you will do me the pleasure to send them immediately. Further particulars you will learn from Monsr. Rennault. Oblige me with frequent news of your health.

No. II.—Supposed to be written about the middle of March 1757.

Suraja Dowla to the distinguished of the Empire, the sword of riches, the victorious in war, Monsr. Busie, Bahadre.

* This reference to a nervous disorder may throw light on the circumstances which led to Clive's melancholy end.

I have, with great pleasure, received news of your being arrived near the Orissa country, with a powerful army of soldiers, Telingas, &c., to the assistance of the Commander of Chandernagore. I promise myself great pleasure in seeing you; a meeting will confirm the great friendship between us. I have ordered the Naibs of the Soubah, the Phouzdar, and Zemidars of Midnapore to wait on you and assist you on your march.

No. III.—Supposed to be written in the latter end of March 1757.

Suraja Dowla to Monsr. Busie, Bahadre, &c.

I am advised that you are arrived at Echapore. This news gives me pleasure. The sooner you come here the greater satisfaction I shall have in meeting you. What can I write of the perfidy of the English? they have, without ground, picked a quarrel with Monsr. Rennault and taken by force his Factory. They want now to quarrel with Monsr. Law, your chief at Chandernagore, but I will take care to oppose and overthrow their proceedings. When you come to Ballasore I will then send Monsr. Law to your assistance, unless you forbid his setting out. Rest assured of my good will towards you and your company, and to convince you of my sincerity I now send Perwannahs to Didarally and Ramagee Pundit and to Rajaram Sing, that as soon as you may enter the Province that they may meet and lend you all possible assistance and not on any pretence impede your march both at Cuttack, Ballasore and Midnapore.

No. IV.—Supposed to be written in the latter end of March 1757.

You wrote me that Monsr. Busie is arrived at Echapore two days' journey on this side Chicacul, and two days on the other side Cuttack. This letter I have received. You must obtain good intelligence and employ proper hurkarus, and so soon as Monsr. Busie is arrived in your limits, receive him in the politest manner, so that he may be well pleased and satisfied with you. The moment Monsr. Busie arrives, present him the enclosed Perwannahs. Enquire diligently and inform me whether he has passed the Chilka. I have written to Didarally and Ramajee Pundit that when Monsr. Busie or his army arrives they do not impede them.

No. V.—Supposed to be written in the latter end of April 1757.

Suraja Dowla to Monsr. Law.

I send you Rs. 10,000 for your expenses. Remain quiet at Rajmahal. When Monsr. Busie, Bahadre, &c., comes on this side Cuttack, I will then send for you.

No. VI.—Supposed to be written in the latter end of April 1757.

Suraja Dowla to Abdoulla.

I have sent Monsr. Law 10,000 rupees, do you countenance and assist him at Rajmahal and when I write for him to come here, do you accompany Monsr. Law. Write the purport of what I now inform you off to Mahmud Nazam.

No. VII.—Monsr. Law to Monsr. Bugios, Chief of Sydabad.

Je viens de recevoir une lettre du Nabab par laquelle il m'ordonne de retourner a Mouxadavaj il veut, dit il se joindre a nons pour tomber Sur les Anglais, J'ai recu aussi une lettre du Sr. Change au qui me donne d' assezbonnes Nouvelles Jesuis surpris que vous ne Monsieur avez oui, je ne puis croire que vous soyez tout a fait ignorant de ce qui se passe J'envoie Monsr. de Senpais au Nabab avec lequel it est charge d'entrer en negotiation il a ordre de rester a notretre Loge comme il est votre ancien voy aurezla Bonte de lui reconnoitre pour chef et de lui obeir in celle qualite, pent etre, ir je bientot vous trouver.

J'ai honneur d'etre avec une parfaite consideration.

MONSIEUR,

du Camp Solant votre tres humble et tres obeissant Serviteur,

LAW.

CHAMPAGNON;
24th Mar. 1757.

Duplicate.

264.—*A Clerk proposed as a Covenanted Servant.*

[LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 20.]

There being a great scarcity of Covenanted Servants in Calcutta,* we have entertained Mr. Hewitt as a monthly writer with the same allowances as your own servants, and beg leave to recommend him to be Covenanted upon this establishment. He is appointed in the Secretary's Office.

265.—*Clive on the unhealthiness of Calcutta.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 22, PARA. 2.]

To save unnecessary expenses I have ordered all batta or extraordinary allowances to be struck off, and the military, &c., to return to garrison. The unhealthiness of Calcutta at this season of the year has induced

* There was great mortality at this time among the Civilians, and there was no Chaplain alive. The Court appointed him, "although this is a door that it is with very great reluctance we are ever induced to open, he is to execute the Covenants and to write to his friends in England to give the usual security for him."

me to leave most of your Force above; the lives of men are very precious at this critical juncture, and I am persuaded your affairs will receive benefit from this step on many other accounts.*

266.—*Clive on the death of Admiral Watson.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, AUGUST 22, PARA. 5.]

Mr. Watson is no more; every one here received the melancholy news of his death with much concern; his generosity, disinterestedness, and zeal for the service must for ever endear his memory to the Company. Unhappy Fate! After having escaped all the risks of war to be thus untimely cut off in the midst of his successes, crowned with glory and reputation. This is but one of the many lessons given us of the instability of human nature. Concern for this good man's death hastens me to a conclusion.

267.—*Seamen's conduct in defence of Calcutta rewarded.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 12.]

The seamen of the *Marlborough* having been employed in the Camp near Dum Dum, and having behaved extremely well, we have thought it proper to give them a bounty of fifty (50) rupees a man, as an encouragement for their good behaviour. In this place we beg leave to mention that the Commander and Officers in general of your ships exerted their utmost in the defence of the Settlement, and assisting the inhabitants when we were in distress, we refer it therefore to your Honors to make them such a gratification as you think fit.

268.—*French sent away from Bengal to Pondicherry.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 27, PARA. 5.]

Upon receiving intelligence of the arrival of a French squadron upon the coast, we thought it absolutely necessary to send the Directors

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* Pucka fevers, le mort de chien, the Chowringee jungle, and reeking mud bank, made Calcutta in September a second Batavia, the Golgotha of India, and they had few ideas of sanitary measures in those days. We extract one order, however of that nature:—

"This being a good opportunity to open the town by cutting down the trees with which it is surrounded, ordered, that permission be given to all persons to cut down the trees within our bounds, orange trees and other fruit trees excepted, and that the wood shall belong to those who pay the labourers."

and Council, Officers, Military and Civil, and inhabitants of the late colony of Chandernagore to Pondicherry, to prevent their assisting, in any shape, their countrymen in case they proceed hither to make an attempt upon our Settlement. The *Restitution* is freighted for that purpose. We have allowed the owners forty thousand (40,000) Arcot rupees for carrying them, and have indemnified them in the amount of forty-five thousand (45,000) current rupees, should the ship be taken by the French in her passage to Pondicherry, or detained by them after her arrival there; these were the only terms we could prevail on the owners to send the ship for, and, as we think it of the utmost consequence to keep the French out of Bengal, judged this to be one material step to prevent their getting a footing here, we hope what we have done will meet with your approbation.*

269.—*Sickness among the Troops.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, CAMP FATEHPOORNEAR RAJMAHAUL, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 1.]

Notwithstanding the precautions taken for preserving the military in health by quartering the greatest part at Cossimbazar and Chandernagore, I am sorry to inform you that a terrible mortality has reigned among them, and that many of the survivors are so reduced by illness as to be still incapable of duty. We have likewise lost several Officers, and among the rest Major Killpatrick, who acquired much deserved reputation in his long course of service in India. The squadron has suffered no less than the land forces, indeed the sickness has been general, not only with the English, but the French and Dutch, and even the Natives. The enclosed Return will give you the particulars of our loss, as well as acquaint you with the small force I have at present in the field. Of the detachment of King's Troops not above twenty privates were fit for duty when we marched; therefore at Mr. Pocock's pressing instance I left the whole behind to be embarked on board the squadron. Of the Madras Detachment there remained about 150 effective, train included, so that the troops now with me are for the greatest part composed of foreign deserters and topasses, entertained on the Bengal establishment. However, the present face of affairs seems fortunately to require but little service from our arms, political negociations are likely to be more necessary.

* This was not carried out, as, when the Government agreed to pay Rs. 40,000 for their passage to Pondicherry, some had fallen sick and others were engaged in trade, so the matter was dropped. This deportation may seem harsh, but some of the French that had been released at Chandernagore on parole were found carrying on intrigues and political correspondence with Native powers, and several on parole were taken prisoners in Birbhum trying to escape to Purnea.

270.—*Internal state of the country in Suraja Dowla's time.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 2.]

In laying open the state of this Government, I am concerned to mention that the present Nabob is a Prince of little capacity, and not at all blessed with the talent of gaining the love and confidence of his principal officers. His mismanagement threw the country into great confusion in the space of a few months, and might have proved of fatal consequence to himself but for our known attachment to him. No less than three rebellions were on foot at the same time, one at Midnapore headed by Raja Ram, another in Purneah under Oudel Sing, and the third at Patna under Ramnarain, all which may be very well attributed to the Nabob's own imprudence. Raja Ram's two brothers, after being invited to Muxadavad, were imprisoned, which was quite sufficient to deter him from surrendering himself as he intended. Meer Azisse was appointed to the Government of Purneah to the general satisfaction of the people, but soon laid aside for Coddum Hussan Cawn, a relation it is true of the Nabob, but a tyrannical, rapacious fellow, and odious to the last degree to the Purneans. As for Ramnarain, after he had made his submission, and the Nabob had sworn to continue him in his Government, apparent measures were taken for his overthrow.*

271.—*Surrender of Raja Ram, the Midnapore Rebel.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 5.]

I should have acquainted you that some days before I set out from Chandernagore, Raja Ram, the Midnapore Rebel, came and delivered himself up to me on promise of the Nabob's pardon and our protection. This first unlinked the chain of the three rebellions, the chiefs of which have held correspondence and were connected together. Raja Ram's submission may be deemed a very fortunate event in all respects, for his good sense, long experience in the affairs of this Government, and the great influence he has in the country would have made him as dangerous an enemy to the Nabob as he is now an useful friend to us.

272.—*Knowledge of the language and people useful.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 11.]

Mr. Watts still accompanies me in this campaign, and I cannot omit the opportunity of remarking of what great service he is to your affairs by his thorough knowledge of the language and people of this country.

* Clive mentions in his correspondence how Ray Dulup Ram, the prime minister of Suraja Doula, was in constant fear of his life, and the Nawab suspecting he intended to raise his (S. D.'s) younger brother to the throne had this brother put to death.

273.—*Everything at Delhi has its price.*

[CLIVE'S LETTER TO THE COURT, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 7.]

The Nawab's (Mir Jaffir's) confirmation is not yet procured at Delhi, nor can I tell when it will, the difficulty is in the price.

274.—*The Musulman name of Calcutta, Alinagore, to be omitted on rupees.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 78.]

We have the pleasure to inform your Honors that the word "Alinagore" is, by our present sunnud, to be omitted in the impression on our siccas, in indulgence we could not obtain from Suraja Dowla.*

275.—*Establishment of Dustuck Peons, &c., with badges carrying a Persian inscription.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 96.]

As a means to prevent the abuse of dustucks and the exactions of Chowkeys, Gauts, &c., we have established a number of dustuck peons with badges carrying a Persian inscription, signifying their being the Company's servants. With every dustuck one of these peons is sent, who is responsible for goods passing free of all duties and imposition, and after the delivery of the goods the peon is ordered to return the dustuck to the president to be cancelled, that no further use may be made of that dustuck. We have rated the dustucks at five (5) rupees each in order to defray this additional expense.

276.—*Mug and other robbers at Luckipore.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 97.]

Being advised from Luckipore that the Mugs and other robbers are making depredations in their neighbourhood, and that they are apprehensive they may attempt our factory itself, which is in no state of defence, we have ordered the gentlemen at Dacca to send part of

* The Musulmans like the Americans were fond of dropping the indigenous names of places and using their own, though, (as appears by the Ayin Akberi), the name Calcutta was known long before the English came yet they would not use it.

their sepoys to Luckipore and shall supply them from hence with a few pieces of small cannon, (agreeable to their request) and ammunition.*

277.—*Removal of Natives from Govindpore.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 1[illegible]

We have been obliged to remove all the Natives out of Govindpore, where the new citadel will stand, the brick houses having been valued in the most equitable manner, and, when reported to the Board, will be paid for; those who dwelt in thatched houses have had a consideration made them for the trouble and expense of removing, and have been allowed ground in other parts of the town and outskirts to settle in.†

278.—*The origin of Berhampore Cantonment.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 112.]

Suraja Dowla, in the late rupture, having destroyed our Factory House at Cassimbazar and dismantled the fortifications, Captain Brohier has represented that it will cost the Company more money to repair that Factory, and purchase the houses round it for an esplanade, than to build a complete pentagon from the foundation on an open plain, capable of resisting any force the country Government could bring against it; he has therefore recommended the obtaining a perwannah for building a Factory on Berhampore plain.

The Board being of opinion that a fortified place near the capital of the Subahship would be the means of enforcing our influence at the Durbar and checking any designs that the Government might in future conceive against us, we wrote to Mr. Manningham, who was then at Muxadavad, to apply for a grant of Berhampore plain and for a full perwannah to build a new factory, and fortify it as we thought proper. We have the pleasure to hear from Mr. Scrafton that a sunnud has passed the seal for 400 beegahs of ground on Berhampore plain, but we imagine it will not be possible

* The Mugs of those days were the desolators of the Sunderbunds; they, in alliance with the Portuguese, helped to reduce the now waste Sunderbunds to a jungle though once fertile populous country; so great an apprehension was entertained of them that, as late as 1760, the Government threw a boom across the river below Calcutta to prevent their ships coming up.—*Ed.*

† It was originally intended to have had the Fort near the Dockyard, where the Bank of Bengal now is, but taught by experience the danger of having houses in their vicinity, they chose Govindpore, which was surrounded by a tiger jungle that could be easily cut down. Govindpore was a large village with gunge and bazar, the residence of many natives, who, when dislodged, took up their quarters near the Sabha Bazar.—*Ed.*

for us to begin upon that factory till the citadel at Calcutta is finished, or at least so forward as to admit of Captain Brohier's being sent to Cassimbazar to oversee the works to be erected there.*

279.—*Cowries in Offices.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 10, PARA. 125.]

The Board having purchased a large pack of cowries at different times, we have ordered the Heads of all Offices to indent to the Buxey for what they may want for the use of their respective offices.

280.—*Sickness in Calcutta.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 10, PARA. 3.]

This season has been so extremely sickly that the number of our Europeans are reduced to 4 or 500 Rank and File. A force so small that we are very apprehensive of what may happen should the French arrive in the river after the squadron are gone with any considerable body of troops, especially as our works are in no forwardness.

281.—*On private trade and Carpets.*

[LETTER TO COURT, FEBRUARY 27, PARA. 16.]

We have advertised that no persons residing in the Settlement are to purchase woollen goods, copper, lead or iron from the Commanders or Officers of the Company's ships, without permission from the Import Ware-House keeper for the time being, upon pain of losing the Company's protection and being expelled the Settlement.†

We request your Honors will send out no more carpets till we write for them, there being no demand at present for that article.

282.—*Agra too distant for a Residency.*

[LETTER TO COURT, FEBRUARY 27, PARA. 19.]

In relation to a Residency at Agra, we are to observe that the distance is so great, the northern provinces of the empire so liable to

* This plan of a fort was abandoned; the importance of Moorshedabad sinking with the rise of Calcutta. Berhampore has been a deadly malarious place to the British Soldier while the barracks there have cost nearly a million sterling.

† The Captain and officers of ships at that time carried on a large private trade which enabled the Captains of Indiamen speedily o retire with a fortune.—*Ed.*

troubles, and the great cities so frequently plundered by Afghans, Moghuls and others, that we think it would be exposing the Company's estate to a risk more than the profits would be adequate to, especially, if your Honors approve of keeping a factory at Patna, where broadcloth and copper may, and will be, purchased by the Delhi and Agra merchants if those cities enjoy peace and tranquility.

283.—*Causes of the decay of trade in India.*

[LETTER TO COURT, FEBRUARY 27.]

The complaint of the decay of trade in India is not without foundation, that the ruin of some principal marts abroad, the exactions of the late Subahs in Bengal, and the high duties collected at the ports we trade to in the other parts of India, have been so many principal causes of the decline of our trade, which, if added to the numbers of purchasers being increased in these provinces, the competition of the French settled at Chandernagore, and the great quantities of sugar made by the Dutch at Batavia and carried from thence to Surat and the Gulph of Persia, there will be no room to be surprised at the decay so much complained of.

284.—*The Court send out duplicates of papers lost in Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 3.]

As on the late capture of Fort William all your books and papers are said to be lost and destroyed, and in consequence you must be at a loss in many respects for rules of conduct and proper informations, we now send you copies of our letters for several years past, and previous to them, standing orders. You will also receive many copies of your own books; such as consultations, general books, and indeed whatever you have desired, we have thought necessary, and could be got ready, for the particulars of which you are referred to the lists of the packets.*

285.—*New rules of conduct for Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 4.]

As our Settlement in Bengal may, in its present condition, be looked upon as if it was in its infancy, we shall take the opportunity therefore to lay down some plans and

* The authorities complain of young writers taking documents for transcription to their own houses where they were occasionally mislaid. In the ruins of the factory, however, were found some of the account books; while the merchandise was not destroyed at the capture of Calcutta the records seem to have been nearly all destroyed; it was so in the Mutiny of 1857.

such new rules of conduct in many material cases, as we hope will render it of more consequence to the Company than it ever has been, even in its best condition. We cannot help here remarking that it is a most amazing thing to consider that a Settlement so abounding with industrious inhabitants and flourishing in its trade (for a number of years at least), should produce so little profit to the Company. This cannot easily be accounted for otherwise than from the luxurious, expensive, and idle manner of life which has too much prevailed, for many years before the late calamity, among all ranks of our servants; the genuine effects of which have been inattention and negligence in most, and dishonesty in many.

The present juncture requires very different behaviour. The circumstances of the Company, and your own circumstances as individuals, make a reformation absolutely necessary. We therefore most earnestly call upon our superior servants to be careful, industrious, and in particular to avoid parade and show, and live with the utmost frugality and economy. To be constantly attentive to the conduct and behaviour of the inferior servants; to keep them strictly to their proper business and from living beyond the limits of their circumstances. In the course of this letter we shall keep in view this plan, and give our further sentiments with respect to persons and things in the order they arise. We must add, this is a point of time at which your utmost efforts for the service and general good of your employers are more than ordinarily required. That you may act herein with an united force, we most earnestly recommend the greatest harmony and friendship among the members of our own Council; and although differences in opinion on many occasions are unavoidable, nay, even necessary, yet such differences are not to interrupt the harmony we recommend, but are to be entered on your Consultations for our notice in a plain and fair manner, without the least mixture of personal resentment or altercation.*

286.—*The importance of manufacturing Gun-powder.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 20.]

We observe by your Consultations of the 14th February, you had ordered the powder-mills at Perrins to be repaired, and that Major Kilpatrick was to supervise the making of gun-powder, with the same gratuity which was allowed to Captain Buchanan. In our letter of the 25th March last, we gave you our sentiments upon the agreement with that gentleman, and expressed our hopes that it would, agreeable to your assurances, prove a beneficial one to the Company. Your late misfortunes have prevented our being convinced thereof by experience. We can therefore only say that, as the manufacture of gun-powder at your Settlement is of great importance, at this time in particular, we must recommend and leave it to your prudence to have it made of the best quality and in the cheapest manner you can, either by contract or otherwise as shall be found most advantageous. As you have all the materials on the spot, and cheaper than in any other part of India, we are well satisfied that, with proper management, sufficient quantities may be produced not only for our settlements in

* Disputes and party spirit seem to have been more rife after the battle of Plassey than before it; Holwell was the nearest type of Francis.

Bengal, but for our other settlements,—those on the Coast of Coromandel at least: and we direct that the powder be ever proved by a Standing Committee to consist of the Major, Engineer, Store-keeper, and Gunner, whose reports are to be signed, delivered the Board, and entered upon Consultations with such remarks as may appear necessary.

287.—*Gomastahs.—Good weavers to be encouraged to settle in Calcutta.**

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 25.]

The provision of the investment in and about Calcutta by Gomastahs, on the plan which subsisted before the troubles, was so beneficial to the Company that we cannot think of a better. You are, therefore, to pursue that method, with every addition that can be suggested and shall be found reasonable for its improvement. In particular we earnestly recommend your giving every possible encouragement to bring the weavers to settle in and about the neighbourhood of Fort William on both sides the river; particularly into the thirty-eight villages lately acceded to us by the treaty with the Nabob, that as many articles as possible of your investment may be provided in and near the principal Settlement, particularly with respect to some of the Dacca, Cassajara, and Santipore sortments, which we are satisfied may be attempted with good success, as well as the coloured sortments of the Calcutta investments.

288.—*Instructions as to young writers' studies and mode of living.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 28.]

We have long complained of the heavy expenses of the subordinate settlements, the neglects and mismanagements of our servants there, as well with respect to the providing the investments as in many other particulars, which it would be unnecessary here to repeat; as we are determined to fall upon other measures, we mean by having the business carried on at each settlement by a smaller number of covenant servants at a certain moderate allowance, without the least parade of soldiers, fortification, or even the appearance of military strength; and it is with satisfaction we find by your letter of the 31st of January 1757, that you adopt this plan, as the result of experience, to be in general of the most utility to the Company.

* The reason why Job Charnock chose the left bank of the river for his capital was on account of the vicinity of the weavers; other grounds were, the river protected them against Mahratta excursions, and deep water lay on the left side of the river.

289.—*Army to be reduced.—No brokers—Mofussil Experience.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARAS. 29—31.]

We direct that in future you maintain no Garrison or Military Force at Cassimbazar, or any other of the subordinate settlements; and that no more Europeans or others are kept there than you shall find really useful in the commercial affairs. That our Covenant Servants have no greater or larger allowances at such settlements than are hereafter mentioned, which are to be in lieu of all fees or perquisites whatsoever. We do not mean, however, they should be precluded the benefits of trade, provided it does not prejudice the Company, which we should leave to your care and prudence to judge of and restrain whenever you find occasion for it. You are to attend in every particular manner to the Durbar charges, charges general, and charges of merchandize of each settlement, and reduce and settle them upon the best and lowest terms possible. The excesses in these articles are some of the principal objects we have had so much reason to complain of as greatly injurious to the Company.

As the business at Cassimbazar, Dacca and Luckimpore will, we apprehend, be pretty near equal, we would have it conducted at each of those settlements by a chief, a second, and two Writers, and no more. At Ballasore there is to be only a Resident and one Writer; at all which places they are to be lodged in the factories or houses belonging to the Company. In regard to the several appointments, we refer you to what relates thereto, under the separate heads of General Rules, Instructions, and Orders.

We would have you as much as possible cause the investments to be carried on at the subordinates upon the same place as that at Calcutta, without the intervention of merchants, dalalls, or brokers, by whom the Company have so severely suffered. And here it is necessary to acquaint you that we expect the utmost endeavours be used to recover as much as possible of the outstanding debts due from them, those at Cassimbazar in particular.

The sending annually in rotation a few of our junior servants to reside at the different cloth Aurungs, we are satisfied would be attended with most useful consequences, both to themselves and the service. It would save them from a habit of idleness and examples of extravagance they are too liable to in Calcutta; they would soon acquire the country language and a knowledge of cloth from its first principles, and be a check upon the gomashtas. By this measure our young servants would acquire an aptitude to business, and we shall have a constant succession of trained servants for the business of the Cottah; and in time the whole or the greatest part of the investment might be provided by them, to the exclusion of the gomashtas, which would be a very great and desirable improvement of your present plan. What encouragement such junior servants should have by way of trade at such aurungs you will be the best judge of, and may regulate so as will give proper encouragement to them, at the same time as to prevent interfering with our investments?

290.—*Proposed settlement at Agra.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 34.]

We must also leave it to your consideration whether it may not be for the Company's advantage to have a settlement at Agra, we mean a President, with a Writer or two for his assistance; to live in a hired house at a very moderate expense. If you are of opinion it is a proper measure, you must give your thoughts thereupon; form a plan for such a Residence, and wait for our further orders, unless the advantages are evident and the expenses small; in which cases you are at liberty to make a trial without waiting longer.

291.—*The entire demolition of the fortifications of Chandernagore.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 43.]

The entire demolition of the fortifications at Chandernagore, we hope has been long since effected, agreeable to what Colonel Clive writes us in his letter of the 16th of April. If not, it must be done without loss of time, that the French may not ever have the advantage again of a place of that force, in case of their return to Bengal.

292.—*On the admission of Roman Catholics to Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 46.]

We cannot approve of your so generally interdicting the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion within the whole bounds, as such a step may be attended with many inconveniences. But if any Priest is troublesome, or suspected of doing anything prejudicial to our affairs, we should have such a one immediately dismissed, and not permitted to reside anywhere within the bounds. As to Fort William itself, it will be a prudent measure, so long as the French war subsists, not to suffer any persons professing the Roman Catholic religion, Priests or others, to reside therein, and this you are strictly to observe.

293.—*Armenians to be allowed to live within the bounds of Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3,

You mention that you should consider ulations with respect to admitting the residence of the and black

merchants within our bounds, we hope you have taken no steps to discourage the inhabitants in general, and as to the Armenians we apprehend no bad consequences from their residence; on the contrary, many advantages flow from it, which we would have you encourage as much as possible.*

294.—*Measures for driving the French out of the Province.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 49.]

We observe by Colonel Clive's letter of the 16th of April last, that the Nabob had started a difficulty as to driving the French out of the Province on account of the injury it would be to the Mogul's revenues. Upon which the Select Committee agreed that if the French subordinates were delivered up to us, the English Company would annually make good to the Sircar the loss of Customs on the French Trade, so long as they should be kept out of the country; and that to obviate another difficulty started about the debts owing by the French to his subjects, an offer was made of half of what might be found at their Subordinates. The last measure we can have no objection to, but the other we apprehend will make us liable to unlimited demands. We hope this measure has been, and will be, well considered, and adjusted in the most advantageous and unexceptionable manner; as well as consistent with the great object of keeping the French out of the Province.

295.—*Houses for Government servants to be plain but not on the ground floor.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 31, PARAS. 56, 57.]

In the several buildings it will be necessary to erect for the purposes of the Settlement you are to be as frugal as possible. The Council room and three or four adjoining are to be handsome, though not expensive. All other apartments and buildings are to have as little bestowed upon them as may be consistent with the uses they are intended for. You must take care that the apartments for our junior servants

* The disputes about the Restitution Money when the Armenians and black merchants objected to English [illegible] controlling their funds led to much soreness of feeling on both sides; but looked on the Armenians as the pioneers of commerce in India and by period they made a rule to build a Church at the Court's expense when certain number of Armenians.

are not upon the ground floor and in damp situations, as has generally been the case and fatal to many of them; let them be plain but convenient and contiguous to the general scene of business.*

296.—*The Theatre† to be turned into a Church for the Settlement.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 58.]

We are told that the building formerly made use of as a theatre, may, with a little expense, be converted into a Church or public place of worship; as it was built by the voluntary contribution of the inhabitants at Calcutta, we think there can be no difficulty in getting it freely applied to the before-mentioned purpose, especially when we authorise you to fit it up decently at the Company's expense, as we hereby do.

297.—*Proposed Settlement at Chittagong.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 60.]

Chittagong has been represented to us to be so conveniently situated for trade, and might be advantageous to the Company in so many other respects, that were our affairs in general in a more favourable situation than at present, we should be tempted to order an immediate settlement there; at present we would confine our views to getting leave for hoisting a flag by way of preserving a right thereto, so as to preclude the French, or any other European power, from any pretensions to that place. And we direct you will make the necessary application for an exclusive liberty, if possible, of hoisting a flag accordingly; at least that we have the liberty of settling, and a flag there, notwithstanding any privileges the Nabob may grant to other nations.

298.—*Mere seniority in the Military line a failure.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 79.]

Our late misfortunes in Bengal have fully evinced, by the incapacity of the late Commandant Minchin what little regard ought to be paid to seniority in the Military line, on so important an occasion as the command of our forces for ever so short a time.‡

* The Calcutta houses after the battle of Plassey had the ground floor appropriated to godowns, while the first floor was approached by a flight of steps.

† The Theatre stood to the north-west of the present Scotch Kirk.

‡ Had there been a Sir H. Lawrence instead of a *Drake* in Calcutta, Suraja Daula could never have taken it. Holwell wrote strongly of Drake's cowardice, but the Court took a more lenient view and allowed him to continue in Bengal as head of the senior merchants.

299.—*Barracks for Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 84.]

The safety of the place and the proper management of the garrison depend so much upon the soldiers being constantly under the eye of their officers, that we would have you, as soon as you conveniently can, cause barracks to be erected for them in such place or places as may best answer the purpose.

300.—*The Members of Council in rotation to visit the Hospital and report on the Surgeons.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 85.]

As we take it for granted you have re-established the Hospital, you are strictly to observe the orders we gave for the better regulation thereof in our General Letter of the 8th of January 1752, and in particular, that part wherein one of the Council is directed in turn once a week, or oftener if necessary, to visit the Hospital, and report to the Board whether the Surgeons are regular in their attendance, and give all the relief in their power to the sick; that they are kept clean and have the proper provisions. We know this has not been observed as it ought to have been, that we may know therefore that you do your duty regularly in this respect, we insist upon your entering upon your Diary every such visitation, together with such proceedings as may result therefrom.

As the allowing of sick quarters for the Military leaves a dangerous opening for faggots, you are on no account to admit of such a practice, and indeed, if the Hospital is properly managed, there will be no pretence for it.

301.—*A Merchant of Calcutta made a Factor.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 89.]

Mr. Anselm Beaumont, who hath resided for several years past at our Settlement of Fort William, is represented to us as having carried on a considerable trade there with great honour; and that his behaviour in the course thereof hath been such as tended to the advantage of the Company by the example it afforded to others. We being inclined to listen to the representations of his friends in regard to the great losses he hath sustained in the late general calamity which hath befallen that Settle-

ment, as well in regard to the loss of his own effects as of the consignments and effects entrusted to him by his friends, in order to excite his industry and give him a better opportunity of retrieving his shattered fortune, we do direct that he be entertained in our service as a factor, and to take rank next after Mr. George Gray, junior.

302.—*English Officers deciding disputes between Natives to be called Zemindars.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 98]

The Civil Authority, for determining all causes of property between the natives above 20 rupees, are to be vested in five persons. The members you are to name from our servants below Council, one of which is to preside as judge for a year only, and then another is to be elected. These several appointments are to be made by our President and Council, who are to remove them when the service requires it.

303.—*Cruel treatment towards employés to be avoided.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 117.]

The Despatch dwells on the restoration of Mr. Plaisteed to favor, he was a sufferer in the siege and "our compassion has in a great degree effaced our resentment in regard to his late haughty behaviour"; they recommend his being suspended in case of behaving ill again, but they add—

But remember that you are able to justify yourselves in all instances where severities are exercised towards him or others, and the remarkable cruel treatment of Captain Graham is here mentioned to shew you that we will resent such arbitrary measures. We do direct he is to be paid the annual salary of current rupees one thousand eight hundred in full of all perquisite, emoluments, and allowances whatever.

304.—*The General Books swelled to an enormous size.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 118.]

The General Books for these many years have been swelled to an enormous size by the multiplicity of useless heads. This, together with

the liberties you have taken of creating innumerable entries for the private convenience of individuals, have rendered them intricate and confused.

And as your books have been generally basely copied, entries frequently erased, postings omitted, with other unpardonable irregularities, the person found culpable in any of these instances, together with him who signs as examiner, shall assuredly feel our resentment.

305.—*Records written in a vile manner.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 119.]

The Secretary's office has in like manner been very badly managed. Your Consultations for these several years past wrote in such a vile manner as not to be legible in many places. Indexes often omitted; the Registers, as already noticed, either not punctually kept up or transmitted us; in short, the business in every branch at your Settlement has been conducted in such a loose and negligent manner as to reflect shame on those in trust with our affairs. You, our Governor and Council, must set the example of order, method and application. The junior servants shall be taught obedience and kept strictly to their duty; the negligent admonished, and where admonition fails, suspend them the service until our pleasure is known. The Madras method of indexing their Consultations is so plain and intelligent, that we direct you to put the same in practice, one of those, for your guidance, is enclosed in this packet.

306.—*Guards for Calcutta at night.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 122.]

The Cuzwall's power being destroyed,* our Major must in future appoint an European guard with an Ensign to patrol constantly from ten at night to five in the morning. The extent of those bounds you are to direct, but be particularly careful that the river side and all entrances to the town be well inspected. Spies and smugglers are to be examined by our Governor in Council.

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* They abolished Buxees and pikemen at the same time; the Major was to have charge not only of 500 Europeans and 500 Sepahies in the garrison, but also to supervise the town police.

307.—*Economy and abstinence from luxurious indulgence.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 130.]

There never surely was a time when the situation of the Company's affairs, or that of their servants of all ranks, as well as of those who are resident in India under the Company's protection, so loudly called for a general reformation. If that regard (which we really look upon to be due) is to be paid to the truth of your representation of the distressed situation of our once flourishing settlement of Fort William, no attempts should be neglected for restoring it to something like its former lustre; and necessity must now enforce what prudence would always have suggested to those who attend to her dictates. Should the economy we recommend to our servants of all ranks be as general as their situation requires, it must banish that false shame which is so often the attendant of those of weak minds, whose ill-judged acts, in an inferior situation in regard to rank or fortune, put them upon following the examples of their superiors, in either, in their vicious or luxurious indulgences, but not to incur a censure formerly passed on us on a like occasion, though we are endeavouring rather to recommend and persuade where we are authorized to command.

308.—*Writers' salaries to be raised to Rs.* 400 *per annum.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 131.]

But as we are sensible that our junior servants of the rank of Writers at Bengal are not upon the whole on so good a footing as elsewhere, we do hereby direct that the future appointment to a Writer for salary, diet money, and all allowances whatever, be four hundred current rupees per annum, which mark of our favour and attention, properly attended to, must prevent their reflections on what we shall further order in regard to them as having any other object or foundation than their particular interest and happiness.

309.—*No horses, palankins, cook-rooms, gardens to be kept.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARAS. 132, 133.]

There is no part of the 80th paragraph of our General Letter of the 23rd of January 1754, per *Denham*, that does not merit your particular attention. One of which we are determined to enforce from a persuasion that the indigence of our junior servants, which may too often have been the effects of their vices and the imitation of their seniors, hath not a little contributed to increase that load of complaints which has been so strongly and repeatedly urged by the Nawab in regard to the

abuse of *dustuck*, a practice we have ever disclaimed, and are determined to show in future the strongest mark of our resentment to such as shall be guilty of.

And we do most positively order and direct (and will admit of no representation for your postponing the execution of) that no writer whatsoever be permitted to keep either palankeen, horse or chaise, during his writership, on pain of being immediately dismissed from our service.

You are also to observe that we will not in future admit of any expenses being defrayed by the Company either under the head of cook-rooms, garden, or other expenses whatever, and which we have lately observed on the face of our books, whether for the emolument of the Governor or any other person, and which are not mentioned in the list of salaries, appointments, &c., annually transmitted to us; as that is to be your present rule and standard for the whole to be paid each gentleman, from the senior in Council to the junior factor, except in the particular instance, hereinafter mentioned.

310.—*Mr. Pearkes for military services appointed Accountant.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 136.]

The conduct of Mr. Paul Richard Pearkes during the time of the attack on Fort William, the hardships he underwent in continuing to discharge his duty in the defence thereof until the Nabob became master of the place, entitles him to some particular mark of our regard, and we do therefore direct that he be appointed Accountant, with a gratuity annexed to that post of current Rupees one thousand per annum.

311.—*Table allowances—Writers' diet money, twenty rupees.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 144.]

For the better accommodation of each Factory, we do hereby direct and appoint that the Chief of Cassimbazar be allowed annually the sum of four thousand current rupees for the keeping of a table, and in full of any other emoluments or allowances whatsoever, and that the further sums to be allowed the chiefs of our other subordinates be expressly on the same conditions; namely, to the Chief of Dacca, current rupees three thousand: to that of Luckimpore two thousand five hundred current rupees, and the Chief or Resident at Bullramgully, twelve hundred current rupees, per annum. And we are further to explain our intentions in regard to these several appointments, that such allowance for table-money is given in order that the junior servants at each factory should partake thereof. Nevertheless, if there should be a want of that harmony we should wish to preserve and maintain between our senior and junior

servants, or that it should, for any other reasons, be more agreeable to one or both parties to diet apart, we do direct that in such case the chief shall allow and pay out of the sum granted to him, to each junior servant above the rank of writer, thirty current rupees per month, and to each writer twenty current rupees per month, to diet themselves.

312.—*Not to be lavish in Calcutta of the ground in building and gardening.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 156.]

Let there be an exact measurement made and sent us of the territory lately annexed. Encourage all useful people to reside among you, and be not lavish of the ground in building and gardening; allow only what may be convenient.*

315.—*Cutting the ditch to encircle Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 157.]

We have been informed that by cutting the ditch from Dum-Dum to Perrin's Garden, it would encircle Calcutta and render your Settlement very strong. This we mention for your notice.†

316.—*Demolishing Chandernagore.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 165.]

You must make use of every conveyance to send home all the French prisoners taken at Chandernagore, or any other places since, and you are to give orders to the commanders of every one of our ships to receive as many as they can conveniently carry, and you are to desire the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, on their return, to bring as many as they can. We have already given directions for your entirely demolishing Chandernagore, as well as all fortifications and works taken or which shall be taken, since the capture of Chandernagore.

* The English then were making their first move across Creek Row to Chowringee, at that period a tiger jungle; they liked large compounds and plenty of room; but land was cheap.—*Ed.*

† The Court proposed completing the ditch to Kidderpoor, about one mile, and so have it run round Calcutta, a defence not only against the enemy, from "the Continent," as the neighbouring country was called, but also a means of preventing smuggling; in Lord Wellesley's time the Mahratta Ditch became such a receptacle of filth that the order went forth to fill it up; from its ruins rose the Circular Road.

317.—*A gold currency not so proper for Bengal as a silver one.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 3, PARA. 180.]

As the treasure by the ships unavoidably consists of gold, which we are sensible is not so proper for Bengal as silver, we have recommended it to the President and Council of Fort Saint George to exchange as large a part of it as they can into bullion or rupees.

318.—*Fort William to accommodate* 1,000 *men—No outstations to be fortified.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 8, PARAS. 16, 17.]

As it is our meaning to have a compact place of strength at Calcutta, the size of it must be such as not to require a thousand Europeans at the utmost to defend it properly, and as even this number cannot without great difficulty be depended on, it would be more agreeable to fix the plan of your works upon the supposition of a garrison as much below the said number of one thousand men as may be consistent with the safety of the Settlement.

The carrying on our business at the subordinate Settlements without erecting fortifications, having garrisons or running into expenses for show or parade, according to the plan laid down in our letter of the 3rd instant, is so agreeable to our sentiments as well as yours, previous to your last advices, that we can by no means listen to your proposal for fortifying Cassimbazar, or any adjacent spot, at the Company's expense, and you are not to proceed on this project. If the Nabob is desirous of erecting fortifications at Cassimbazar, Rajmahal, or elsewhere at his own expense and to be garrisoned by his own people, you may oblige him with all convenient assistance of Engineers for planning the work, and instructing his people in the carrying them on, provided it does not impede the great object of putting Calcutta in a proper posture of defence, which must first engage your care and attention.

319.—*Two worthy Clergymen to be sent out.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 8, PARA. 19.]

We shall look out for two worthy clergymen to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of your Chaplains, and send them to Bengal by the first opportunity.

320.—*All bonds to be discharged and no further interest.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 8, PARA. 20.]

In the circumstances of a flowing cash more than sufficient for your investments and charges, you did very right in giving notice

that no interest would be allowed on the Company's bonds after the 1st October 1757; and that all bonds tendered for payment should be immediately discharged. We shall expect to hear by your next advices that you have called in all the bonds without waiting for their being tendered, and paid all or the greatest part of that debt.

321.—*Portuguese and Topasses* to have their share in the restitution money.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 8, PARA. 24.]

From various reports that have reached us, there is a distinction said to be made by you of private property, which, in our opinion, does no way square with rules of justice and equity, and that is the exclusion of Portuguese, topasses, and other Christian natives, from any share of the money granted by the Nawab. Now, most certainly those poor unhappy people are comprehended under the 6th Article of the Treaty, and we hope have shared accordingly.

322.—*A succession of capable Officers.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MAY 12, PARA. 19.]

In order to guard as much as possible as lies in our power against those striking calamities that have befel us in the captures of our Settlements of Madras and Bengal, we have appointed a succession of capable officers to the chief command of our military. Still these must be governed by the civil branch.

323.—*Difficulties about Recruits.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 8, PARA. 26.]

We are under the greatest difficulties in raising recruits. However, we shall use our best endeavours to send you as many as can be procured and there are conveyances for, of which we shall give you notice from time to time. It is mentioned to us that a corps of 2,000 Europeans at least is necessary for our service in Bengal; but as it is almost impossible that you can at any time have such a number from the various difficulties that occur in transporting them, to instance in no others,

* Portuguese artillery-men.

you must form your designs and schemes upon what forces you may reasonably expect, and not depend upon numbers which it will be impracticable to send.

324—*The French to be distressed in every shape.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 24.]

Orders may be sent to all zemindars, &c., to the southward of Hugly, even to Ballasore, on no account to assist the French with provisions, water, and any thing else, but, on the contrary, to distress them in every shape in their power.*

325.—*First dâk between Calcutta and Murshidabad.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 18.]

Dâk Cossids were likewise ordered to be fixed at the different stages between Calcutta and Murshidabad.†

326.—*Colonel Ford's compensation for joining the Company's service.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 24.]

Colonel Ford being arrived on the *Sally* and in town wrote the Committee a letter in reply to our address of the 14th November to him, demanding by way of compensation for quitting His Majesty's service the sum of £5,000 in hand in case he remained in the Company's employ, with all the honors, pay and emoluments as our Major.

327.—*Sepoys raised for defence.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, MARCH 20.]

A stout body of near a thousand sepoys has been raised within these few days. ‡

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* Lord Clive was away from Calcutta at this time, and the Council were so apprehensive of the French coming up the river that they proposed applying to the Nawab to garrison Hugly with 15,000 horsemen to help them in an emergency. Clive negatived it however, as indicating unnecessary fear and dependance on the Nawab.

† Arrangements were made at this time to send letters from Calcutta to Murshidabad in thirty hours.

‡ This was at Clive's suggestion; they were Bojepore men.

328.—*A Sloop reaches England from Bombay in four months.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 14.]

A letter from Bombay states from private advices received overland that the *Syren* Sloop arrived in England in less than four months.

329.—*Corrupt Native Agency.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 14.]

I am very well convinced and so must any body that has resided long in Bengal, that let masters be ever so diligent, the natives employed under them will have great authority and power to prejudice their employers, especially in such an affair as the present, the land being so extensive that the masters can be little known and the servant will have all the sway.*

330.—*Docks proposed for Calcutta.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, MAY 29.]

Colonel Clive informs the Committee that Mr. Pocock at his departure represented to him the necessity of having a dock in Bengal for the reception of His Majesty's ships, in case the squadron should winter here, and as he thinks the expense of making such a dock would be greatly overbalanced by the advantages resulting from having the squadron refit at Bengal instead of Bombay, by which means they would have it in their power to return much earlier to the coast, he hopes therefore the Committee will immediately order a survey to be made of the spot most proper to make a dock at, and give directions for its being begun and completed as soon as it possibly can be done. The Committee was of the same opinion with regard to the advantage and convenience of

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* This was a communication from Wm. Beecher referring to a survey being made of the lands south of Calcutta by Mr. Frankland, who spent several months in the survey which was to embrace the nature and extent of the revenues, the number of villages and inhabitants and what improvements may be made for the increase of the rents collected. Mr. F. objected to so vast a tract of land being under the superintendence of one person, while the man under him was one Cossinath, "a fellow notoriously known to have acted under Manikchand while the Moors were in possession of Calcutta, and, if not falsely accused, prejudiced the English as much as he could."

having a dock in Bengal fit for the reception of any of His Majesty's ships in India.*

331.—*An Assistant acquainted with the country languages.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JUNE 2.]

Received a letter from Colonel Forde, dated at Sydavad, the 30th May, requesting an assistant who is acquainted with the country language, as likewise a Persian writer.

332.—*Trade in the Persian Gulph.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JUNE 17.]

That they had lately learnt the *Bristol*, French Ship, would be detained at Bussorah till the middle of June for a cargo of wheat for Pondicherry, and that therefore they hope that the *Revenge* and *Drake Ketch*, which were dispatched 20th April with a consignment of woollen goods for Gombroom, will have the good fortune to intercept her.

333.—*Fire-arms in Calcutta to be given up.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JUNE 17.]

The Company being in want of arms, and being informed there are a quantity of firelocks and pistols to be procured in the town, ordered the Secretary to give public notice that all who are possessed of fire-arms (fowling peices excepted) must send them into the Military Store-keeper for the Company's use, and that such as are taken will be reasonably valued and paid for.

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* This led to the establishment of the Kidderpoor Docks at a place called Surman's Gardens, so called from Wm. Surman, who went in 1714 on an embassy to the Great Mogul.

334.—*Calcutta people to give up their laborers in order to finish the Fort speedily.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 3.]

Present:—

MR. DRAKE,	MR. COLLETT,
,, MANYINGHAM,	,, MACKETT, and
,, FRANKLAND,	,, BODDAM.

The Committee of Works send in a letter to the Board informing us of the difficulty they find in getting laborers and artificers for the fortifications, and desiring the Board will take some method to get them people to carry on the works. Ordered, their letter be entered, and that they advertise no artificers shall be employed by the private inhabitants after the first day of February. As to laborers, the Board imagine with proper encouragement a sufficient number may be procured after the harvest of paddy is over.*

335.—*The Thanadar at Hugly plants Moorish colors on English ground.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 3.]

The zemindar acquaints the Board that Solaman Beg, the Phowsdar's Naib at Hugly, has placed four Simtaburdars at the Company's old factory at Golegaut in Hugly, and likewise threatened to cut down the English colors there, and has planted a pair of Moor's colors close by the English on the Company's ground, and his people have been and drove away some coolies that were clearing a spot of ground there in order to settle a market. Mr. Collett thinks the Company have an undoubted right to settle any market or bazaar in their own ground; he therefore hopes some method will be taken to reprove the insolence of Solaman Beg. Ordered, the President do write to Solaman Beg that we think this a piece of insolence.

336.—*Nawab's Sunnud for the lands south of Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 3.]

The Select Committee lay before the Board a copy of the Nawab's Sunnud for the lands to the southward of Calcutta to be held by the Company and their successors. Ordered, it be translated.

* The inhabitants gave the coolies a greater price than what was allowed by the Company, and at this time a French fleet was expected in the river; there was no defence, and it was of vital consequence the fort should be completed.

337.—*Coja Asof's unparalleled piece of insolence.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 16.]

Received a letter from Paul Richard Pearkes, Esq., Council at Patna, complaining of a most extraordinary and unparalleled piece of insolence committed by Coja Asof's people on Mr. Pearkes, as he was going to weigh off the 10,000 maunds of the contract petre. Agreed, we write to Colonel Clive to demand satisfaction, without which it would be impossible for the Company's servants to do their duty with security.

338.—*Company's bonds to be paid in sicca rupees.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 6.]

One Charles Douglas, a merchant, writes to the Board refusing absolutely to take in payment their Calcutta Siccas, on the ground that—

I should have my fortune (and that of others under my charge) daily exposed to the imposition of being curtailed and diminished from 5-8 to 10 per cent. at the pleasure of Juggat Set* and the head shroff of this province, who, it's well known, has the sole management and direction of the current money of the country, and can always make it fluctuate in such manner as he sees fitting and convenient for his purpose.†

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* Juggat Set was the Rothschild of his day; his enormous wealth of six or eight millions sterling made him supreme at Murshidabad.

† THE COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT "Mr. Douglas' conduct was very unbecoming a person who resides under the Company's protection; that we shall represent his behaviour to our employers in that light." They ordered Mr. Ridge, the notary public, to tender him the amount of his notes in Calcutta siccas; at this time, when the military remonstrated on the same ground, they agreed to pay them not in Sicca, but in Sonat rupees, "thus contenting the military at a trifling sacrifice." Mr. Douglas' money amounted to Rs. 11,19,643. When the public notary came to protest against his conduct he locked his gate on which the protest was nailed to the door. The Court sent out orders he was to quit India within a year "his behaviour appearing to be insolent as well as frivolous and tending to set an example of obstinacy and opposition."

339.—*Claim for compensation during the capture of Calcutta.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 16.]

Captain David Rannie sends in a letter to the Board concerning a parcel of Jootenague plundered by some of the black inhabitants of Calcutta during our expulsion.

Ordered, his letter be entered.*

340.—*No Europeans to buy land in the 24-Pergunnahs.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 2.]

Resolved that no Europeans be suffered to purchase any of the Hon'ble Company's farms.†

341.—*Natives desert the Fort work on account of receiving less than 3 rupees.*

[CONSULTATIONS, FEBRUARY 21.]

Captain Brohier, who had charge of building Fort William, writes on the subject of sinking ships and placing a boom across the river at Culpi to prevent a French fleet coming up, but that sinking vessels near Culpi would not hinder their coming up as far as Tanna's Reach and landing their troops near Surman's Gardens:—

5,000 men have deserted us on account of the loss they sustain in the Bazaar by the batta there is on the Sonat rupees, and that many of

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* Several thousand maunds on the capture of Calcutta were sent to Chinsura and kept by natives there. Manick Chand gave 1,000 maunds to one native, Kaliram Sing; Captain Rannie in this case claimed restitution according to the treaty of Breda, 1667, which directs that any goods taken from the English by an enemy and brought into Dutch districts be immediately restored.

† In a Despatch, 10th January 1758, the reason assigned by the Bengal Government is, "upon a representation being made to the Board that many of the European inhabitants of Calcutta had farmed towns and villages without the Company's bound, (600 yards outside the Mahratta Ditch), from which practice many inconveniences and disputes with the Country Government might arise, we resolved to put a stop to such proceedings immediately, and accordingly interdicted the Europeans of this Settlement by a public advertisement from farming or holding any lands, towns or villages under the jurisdiction of the Rajas and Zemindars whose lands are without the Company's boundaries."

them expected three rupees per month, as the present circumstances of affairs require.*

342.—*Colonel Forde receives £5,000 for joining the Company's Service.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MARCH 26.]

Colonel Forde agrees to remain on condition of receiving £5,000 "as compensation for running the risk of His Majesty's displeasure by remaining in India, in which case he might lose his commission and prospects at home."

343.—*Portuguese Seamen.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 3.]

The Secretary presents a petition to the Board from some Portuguese seamen belonging to the *Worcester*, who are dissatisfied with their treatment in that ship, and desirous of entering into the Company's Military Service here.†

343½.—*The Armenians to be deprived of half their restitution money.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 3.]

The Commissioners for examining the estimates of European sufferers, send in a letter to the Board desiring that half the money stipulated by treaty for the Armenians may be taken from them and added to the European Fund, which will enable them to receive all the

* They state if the pay be raised to three Sonat rupees per month, they can get any number of men. Colonel Clive writes on the subject—"He begs leave to represent in the strongest terms the great stake the Company have in Bengal, and how much it is exposed for want of a fortification; that it gives him concern beyond what he can express to hear from all hands the works go on very slowly, and if the want of hands arises from the want of a few pice more, he thinks such a saving does not merit a moment's consideration, or that such economy can meet with the Company's approbation at this juncture."

† These men were natives of Bengal. They complained they were forced to sign an agreement on board the *Worcester*, they met with harsh treatment from the Captain and could not go to Europe not knowing the English language. The Government compromised the matter and took them into the Military service, supplying the *Worcester* with substitutes.

Portuguese sufferers as sharers in that fund.—Ordered, their letter be entered, and that the Secretary do inform them of the donation made by the Armenians to the Portuguese sufferers of 2 lacs of rupees, more than which we cannot demand, and that if they are willing to examine the Portuguese account, we recommend it to them to do it as soon as possible.

344.—*A French vessel coming to take the pilot sloops.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 17.]

There being a report in town of a small French vessel being seen cruising in the Roads, which may probably be sent there with a design to take our pilot sloops—Ordered, that Captain Jedd get the *Ilchester* in readiness to proceed down the river on first notice.

345.—*Stores for burning an enemy's fleet.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 17.]

Captains Brohier and Wedderburn send in a letter to the Board with a list of the stores and materials necessary for putting in execution their projects for burning an enemy's fleet.*

346.—*The black inhabitants of Calcutta and Omichand.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 17.]

The Secretary likewise presents a petition to the Board from the black inhabitants, and a remonstrance from the black Commissioner, requesting Omichand's account of losses may not be admitted to share in the fund of 20 lacs stipulated for them.†

A remonstrance of the Commissioners appointed for examining the losses sustained by the black inhabitants of Calcutta.

I. When Omichand brought the account of his losses, they were informed that he would not give in the account of his losses, and that the same might be shared among the poor people; to which Omichand answered, that it is true he had proposed so at first, as the Nabob had promised to give him thirty lacs of rupees which he has not received, therefore he brought his account to the Commissioners.

* The order was complied with and all expedition used. As Fort William was not ready, and a large French fleet was expected; the plan of defence was three or four fascine batteries mounted with heavy cannon; booms, sunken vessels and fire ships.

† The Government rejected the petition.

II. Several black inhabitants of Calcutta having complained to the Hon'ble Board that they have seen the Nabob's colours and guard in his house, and they are sensible his goods were not plundered; on examining which it was found to be true that the Nabob's colours were hoisted in his house, and his house was kept by the Nabob's guard.

III. Jaggernaut Jammadar and Omiser Kismutgar, belonging to Omichand, having conducted the Nabob into Calcutta, they also broke open the prison house, or Cutwally Chubbuthan, and released the criminals, plundered the Town, which the Commissioners were also informed of, and the Cutwal likewise is ready to satisfy the Hon'ble Board with the truth thereof.

The above objections have prevented the Commissioners to examine Omichand's account of losses till they received further orders from this Hon'ble Board.

Soobaram Bysack, Gobindram Meeter, Rotoo Sojar, Neilmoney, Nayan Malick, Drykishun Salmer, Dayrannboss, Ramsantop, Durjaramdat, Mamood Sadack, Ally Boye, Aynodee, Sadet Molick.

347.—*An Armenian's petition for rsetitution of losses on ship board.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 17.] *

The humble Petition of Coja Mirza Petruise, heretofore of Calcutta, but now of Chinsurah, Armenian merchant,

SHOWETH,—That your petitioner did some time on or about the month of December, and year one thousand seven hundred and fifty five, send on the ship *St. Anne*, whereof one Captain Lucas was then commander, bound to the eastward, the amount of Arcot Rupees ten thousand (10,000), which said amount was to run at respondentia on the risk of the above mentioned ship, and which said ship was the property of the French; and your petitioner further showeth that he also freighted on board the said ship, on his own private account, one bale of piece goods, as per bill of lading ready to be produced for the inspection of your honours will more fully at large appear, the net proceeds of which goods amounted to twenty-five bars of tin, which your petitioner has received advice of in the invoice delivered of the ship's cargo by Mons. Lasend, (before the capture of the said ship) supercargo.

And your petitioner further showeth, that after the arrival of the said Ship *Saint Anne* in this river of Bengal, the said ship was taken and made a prize in the name of King George by Admiral Watson, Esq., since deceased, and condemned, and his cargo sold, and the amount thereof distributed among the squadron. And your petitioner further showeth, that since the time of his so lending the above-mentioned sum as

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* We give this as a case which excited much discussion at the time as to the legal bearings of it.

aforesaid, there was no disturbance between the English and French, but they were in true alliance together; and your petitioner further showeth, that upon his hearing of the arrival of the said ship, and that Admiral Watson, Esq., deceased, had made her a prize, he immediately made application to Admiral Watson Esq., deceased, for the amount thereof, and at the same time informed him that when he shipped the said goods aboard of the said ship, the French and English were in alliance together, and that as the Armenians were also in true alliance with the English and French and other nations, and as he knew nothing of a war at that time between the English and French, entreated the assistance of the said Admiral Watson, Esq., deceased, in order for the recovery of the above-mentioned amount, who informed your petitioner that he would lay his case before your honour, and therefore ordered your petitioner to wait upon him in a day or two; and your petitioner further showeth, that he waited on the said Admiral Watson, Esq., deceased, who informed him that your petitioner should receive the amount for the loss that he had sustained out of the donation that the Nawab had given to the Armenians for their losses, and your petitioner further showeth, that he made an estimate of his loss which he had sustained on account of the within mentioned ship, and delivered the same in to the Commissioners entitled to act for them, who received the same and approved thereof. And your petitioner further showeth, that since the decease of the said Admiral Watson, Esq., he is informed that they have thrown your petitioner's estimate of losses on account of the said Ship *Saint Anne* out. Now your petitioner most humbly entreats the assistance and relief of your honour in this case, and an order that his said account may be passed, and he be paid out of the above-mentioned donation.

And your petitioner shall ever pray, etc., & so forth.

348.—*Armenians and Greeks object to their accounts being revised by English Commissioners.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 24.]

The Armenian inhabitants send in a petition and remonstrance to the Board concerning their accounts being revised by the English Commissioners to determine and establish our claims, and as we think their application to your honour, &c., to examining our accounts and revise our proceedings are equally absurd and extravagant as if our Commissioners were to apply to your honour, &c., to examine and settle the estimates of the European or black sufferers we therefore flatter ourselves your honour, &c., will not oblige your petitioners to deliver in our accounts to be examined by any other Commissioners than those of our own nation, more especially as the Europeans, Natives, and Portuguese are indulged with that favour, and we cannot see any reason for treating us in a different manner.

349.—*The English Commissioners complain of the obstinate refusal of the Armenians.*

Notwithstanding the repeated orders from your honour, &c., to the Armenian Commissioners to bring in the Armenian estimates of the losses before the English Commissioners for their revisal of them, the Armenian Commissioners, in contempt of all authority, have not only absolutely refused to bring in their own accounts, but have intimidated as many as they could influence to do the same. The Armenian Bishop has threatened his congregation in their church, and the Armenian Padrees have gone from house to house to prevail on the Armenians not to bring in their accounts before the Commissioners, which behaviour still corroborates the opinion that the Commissioners were of before that the Armenian Commissioners had been guilty of collusive practice in passing of their own accounts, as not one amongst them, except Cojah Luhman, will submit his account to be revised.

350.—*Road Expenses—Tank-digging at Luckypore.*

[CONSULTATIONS, MAY 1.]

The expenses of the road-tank which would amount to as follows:—

The charges of making a road 7,500 yds. long ...	Rs.	600
Digging a large tank	,,	1,600

351.—*An Organ Clock as a present to the Nawab.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 5.]

The President acquaints the Board he has purchased a fine Organ Clock to present the Nawab with (valued) Rs. 5,000.

352.—*Government Offices wanted—A Council Room.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 22.]

There being at present no proper places for the public offices, from which circumstances many inconveniences arise in carrying on the business of the Settlement, and as it will be proper likewise to have a room to hold our Councils in contiguous to the Secretary's and Account-

ant's offices, agreed, the dwelling house of the late Mr. Richard Court be purchased for the Hon'ble Company, and appropriated to the above uses.*

353.—*Protest of Members of Council against the having rotatory Governors.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JUNE 26.]

They would have placed the presidentship in some one person as the easiest and clearest method of conducting their concerns, as well as preserving and maintaining the weight and influence the late happy revolution has given us with the Subah of these provinces, on which at the present period the interest and welfare of the Company at this Settlement in the highest degree depends; the difficulties we may be liable to by a rotation in the executive part of the Government with its consequences are sufficiently obvious in our present state of affairs; however, they shall only mention a few points.—The treaty with the Nabob perfected in all its branches; the possession of the lands incomplete; the Settlement in no posture of defence; the French considerably reinforced with military and a fleet, and their designs with respect to Bengal unknown; the impossibility of impressing a proper idea of this divided power on the minds of the Subah and others in this kingdom, who have at all times been accustomed to the government of a single person. A little reflection on these particulars will introduce many more, and clearly evince the necessity of this motion.†

354.—*Complaints from the black inhabitants of the Gentoo Commissioners.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 3.]

Two petitions from Ramkissen Set and other black inhabitants being presented to the Board and read, complaining of malconduct of

* This house was situated in the street called after it Council House Street.—*Ed.*

† It would have been more lucrative for Members of Council to have had a rotatory Government, but not for the public. The Members unanimously elected Clive, who, though he felt his claims had been set aside by the Court by this complicated form of Government, yet accepted this nomination, stating he felt his ignorance of Civil affairs, but relied on the established aid of Mr. Watts. In a Despatch dated March 8th, the Court themselves had rescinded their revolution for rotatory Governors and had appointed "as heretofore a President and Council."

the Gentoo Commissioners and the injustice done to several of the inhabitants by them in passing their accounts—*

Ordered, Messrs. Rider, Johnstone and Senior to enquire into the truth of these allegations, and report to the Board if they find any ground for such complaints.

355.—*An official ignorant of the country language re-called.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 3.]

As Mr. Bristow's behaviour at Cuttack is not approved of by the Board, and as it is esteemed requisite at this juncture to have a person of capacity at that place and one who understands the country language. —Agreed, Mr. George Gray, junior, be appointed President at Cuttack and that Mr. Bristow be re-called.

356.—*Barracks to be made in the old Fort.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 3.]

The arrival of a French fleet with large reinforcements of military on the coast, and the uncertainty of their next attempts making it necessary to be provided in the best manner we are able for our defence

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* A commission of enquiry was appointed by Government, who found the complaints against the Black Commissioners on the part of the poor almost universal; they also found themselves brought in contact with the principal black inhabitants "equally eminent in unjust proceedings." Those black Commissioners did not require vouchers; scarcely one agreed as to the method of examining accounts. There were 3,000 applicants; and they had a rule to pass no accounts without deduction.

"Ramnidee Banerjee, a writer to the Committee, declares to us that Gonasbose, who is likewise a writer, did, in the presence of himself and others, desire of Nilmony, one of the Commissioners and Secretary, to pass his account without deduction, informing him that it amounted to about Rs. 1,200, to which Nilmony replied it was not customary, and he could not pass it for more than Rs. 800, but recommended it to him to alter his account to about Rs. 1,500, which was accordingly done, and the accounts passed afterwards for Rs. 1,200, agreeable to the first request of Gonasbose." Suberan Baisak got a large sum of money without sending in any account at all. False names were forged, many were required to sign the English copy; if they expressed dissatisfaction in signing the Bengali, they were told they had already acknowledged in the English copy receiving the money! Suberan Baisak, one of the Commissioners, said if they passed the accounts of the poor for full sums, what would remain to them, the rich. Govindram Mittre sent in a demand for Rs. 36,00,000 for what was valued in the Government books at Rs. 6,00,000.

in case they should come to Bengal, which cannot be done but by having all our military in Calcutta, and as there are no barracks for the soldiers in the place and great inconveniences experienced from their being dispersed at different houses, the impossibility of preventing their committing great disorders and destroying themselves with spirituous liquors when so dispersed, and the necessity of keeping them together for their discipline—It is agreed for those reasons to remove the Hon'ble Company's goods from the old Factory that it may be converted into barracks for the military, till proper barracks are built within the new works.

357.—*The Raja of Nuddea deeply a defaulter of revenue.**

[CONSULTATIONS, JULY 18.]

Mr. Scrafton to the Board—It is possible that by threatening the Raja with the loss of his coast and such corporal punishments as are in

* Mr. Lake Scrafton writes from Moraudbag to Government, complaining of the arrears of revenue due in Burdwan and Nuddea. He states the Raja of Nuddea and his son are both villains; that their accounts are false; the Canoongoes do not choose to show the old accounts. He writes more favourably of the Raja of Burdwan. Mr. Scrafton sent twenty sepoys shortly after this to the Raja of Nuddea to enforce payment of the revenue and a man to collect it in his office. Mr. Scrafton recommended that the Raja be deprived of all power in his country, and that his son be kept in Calcutta as security for the father's good behaviour. "As soon as the pooneah is passed, the Raja of Burdwan will pass a writing fixing "the dates on which he will make the several payments for the next year; when this is settled "permit me to recommend it to your honour, &c., to order the revenues to be paid in at "Calcutta, and whenever he is a few days beyond his agreement, to march a party of sepoys "into his country, and when once he is thoroughly intimidated he will be very regular in his "payments. It will be also necessary to look on the province as the Hon'ble Company's "for these two years, and not to permit the Government to interfere in any but Phousdary "affairs till the Company's tuncaws are paid.

"Your honour, &c., will observe that there is near 10,00,000 still due of the second "sixth, which is outstanding with the following assamees:—

"Dotchund Paul for Burdwan	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000
"Ditto ditto	...	...	...	...	...	50,000
"Still due	...	...	...	...	...	2,43,000
"Nuddea	...	...	...	...	...	1,85,000
				Total	...	5,78,000
"Royeshoy	...	...	...	...	...	1,25,000
"Mahmud Ally	...	...	...	...	...	60,000
"Doondyram	...	...	...	...	...	30,000
"Royomaut and Mittunjoy	...	...	...	...	...	2,00,000

"and a small balance in cash. I hope the greatest part will be paid in ten days.

practice among those people, something more may be extorted from him; however, I suppose Roydullub will either pay the balance out of the treasury, or pay the 9 lacs for the ensuing year, therefore it is requisite some method must be taken to make the best of the ensuing year. As the chief cause of the balance is the Raja's extravagance, it therefore appears to me as one necessary step to send a trusty person into his country, to collect his revenues for him, to deprive the Raja of all power in his country, allowing him only Rs. 10,000 per annum, or whatever your honour, &c., may think proper for his expenses, and keep the son in Calcutta as security for the father's good behaviour; if this method is pursued, it is probable the Hon'ble Company may, within the two years, receive the full of tuncaws on him.

358.—*French prisoners to be clothed.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 24.]

It being represented to the Board that the French prisoners are in great want of clothes to keep themselves warm in this cold season—agreed, they be clothed, and bills taken upon the Council at Pondicherry for their amount.

359.—*Names of those said to be favoured on account of their connections with the Native Commissioners.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 18.]

Names.	Demands.	Deductions.	Allied to or dependent on.
Chaithon Doss ...	1,702 0 0	302 0 0	To Rutto Sircar.
Dulob Lucky ...			
Cannant Nurry ...	8,233 11 0	1,233 11 0	To Sooberam Bysack.
Churm Bysack ...			
Curoy Bissas ...	5,983 4 0	1,983 4 0	A cooly belonging to Mittre.
Gonas Bose ...	1,517 1 0	317 1 0	A writer to the Committee.
Ramdeb Mittre ...	7,313 8 0	1,313 8 0	To Mittre, but died in 1747.
Sookdeb Mittre ...	2,380 4 0	380 4 0	Ditto ditto four years.
Ruttorn ...	3,152 4 0	652 4 0	Mistress to Mittre.
Lollta ...	2,419 10 0	419 10 0	Ditto.
Hutty Raon ...	3,577 12 0	577 12 0	Ditto.
Rajaram Palit ...	4,215 12 0	1,015 12 0	Ditto to Sooberam Bysack.
Durgaram beda Songa ...	3,091 0 0	519 0 0	On Mittre.
Durgaram Surmat ...	532 15 0	132 15 0	Ditto.
Lill Money Chandree ...	710 4 0	160 4 0	Ditto.

Names.	Demands.	Deductions.	Allied to or dependant on.
Harryam Ghose ...	390 8 0	90 0 0	To Mittre.
Boucharam Sircar ...	646 0 0	96 0 0	Writer to the Committee.
Luckicond Ghose ...	319 10 0	.....	To Mittre.
Niandoss Dobah ...	1,667 5 0	467 5 0	To Rutto Sircar.
Gungam Dutt Pattee ...	2,513 2 0	513 2 0	On Sooberam Bysack.
Bindabund and Tullichund ...	12,395 4 0	2,895 4 0	To Rutto Sircar.
Gopeechurn Bysack ...	4,056 6 6	1,056 6 0	To Sooberam Bysack.
Ramkissore Chuckerbutty ...	1,421 0 0	421 0 0	On Mittre.
Radacond Roy ...	876 12 0	176 12 0	To Nilmony.
Ramsunear Sircar ...	1,140 4 0	240 4 0	To Ransuntose.
Borjokessore Imona ...	2,198 4 0	698 4 0	To Nilmony.
	73,453 12 0	15,733 10 0	

N. B.—Many others of this class might be taken from the general list.

360.—*Abstract of the Thirteen Native Commissioners' Restitution Money Account.*

[CONSULTATIONS, SEPTEMBER 18.]

Names.	Demands.	Deduction.
	Sa. Rs. A. P.	Sa. Rs. A. P.
Gobindram* and Rogoometre	4,12,680 5 0	37,680 5 0
Sooberam Bysack	4,41,278 9 7	66,278 9 7
Ally Boye†	34,457 0 0	17,457 0 0
Ruttoo Sircar	1,80,322 3 0	40,322 3 0
Sookdeb Mullick	50,942 8 0	10,942 8 0
Nian Mullick	43,922 0 0	5,922 0 0
Diaram Bose	5,153 0 0	1,153 14 6
Nilmony	28,113 0 0	10,113 16 0
Hurrikissen Tagoor	13,788 2 0	3,788 2 0
Durgaram Dutt	647 0 0	100 0 0
Ramsantose	6,410 0 0	910 1 0
Mahmud Suddock	2,716 0 0	1 0 0
Ayer Noody	.....	.....
TOTAL	12,20,429 11 7	1,94,669 9 1
	Deduction about 16 per cent.	

* Shortly after the capture of Calcutta by Surajud Dowla, guards were placed upon the house of Govindram Mittre, likewise upon his goods and effects lodged in the factory to prevent their being plundered; and the Commissioners regarded his demands for restitution as most exorbitant.

† A native merchant of Calcutta.

361.—*Writers' petition to be allowed Palankins.*

[CONSULTATIONS, NOVEMBER 27.]

We must beg leave to remonstrate to your honor, &c., the manifest prejudice which our healths and constitutions must sustain from the being obliged to lay aside palankins, and how detrimental it may prove to us in the execution of the Honourable Company's business.

THREE DAYS AFTER A REPLY CAME FROM THE BOARD.

Having maturely considered the letter of the junior servants, and finding their request not altogether unreasonable, we have permitted them to keep palankins during the hot season and rains, until the offices and apartments in the new fort are finished.*

362.—*French prisoners allowed to leave.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 14.]

Agreed we write to Monsieur Flexin and inform him we expect all the French gentlemen will leave Bengal by the end of January.†

363.—*The Plunder of Budge-Budge, Tannas, and Hugly Forts.*

[CONSULTATIONS, DECEMBER 23.]

The agents for the capture of Budge-Budge, Tannas and Hugly forts now deliver in the accounts of plunder taken, and have paid into the Treasury one moiety of the same, amounting to current Rs. 43,066-12-0.

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* Members of Council only were allowed servants' wages, diet and palankin. This petition presented to Colonel Clive and the Council was signed by Charlton, Rogers, Webb, Hewitt, Williamson, Dacres, Oakes, Skinner, Torrieno, Barwell, Harris.

† In the previous November it was represented to the Board that the French prisoners were in great want of clothes to keep themselves warm in the cold season; the Board agreed that they be clothed and bills drawn on Pondicherry for the amount. The Court, however, objected strongly to sending the French officials away to the Choromandel Coast as being expensive (it cost 45,000 Ar. Rupis) and strengthening the hands of the French there. Some of these prisoners were not very poor, for one Monsieur Bonnete was sent back by the Captain on account of having two boat loads of goods.

364.—*Danes partial to the French.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 6.]

We can't here avoid complaining of the partial behaviour of the Danes to the French, the chief of the factory here having last year sent a ship to Pondicherry laden with that commodity and provision which proved a seasonable relief to the enemy, and this gentleman has been constantly the channel through which the correspondence has been carried on between the Coast; and the French who, through our indulgence, have remained in this province, as appears by several packets directed to the chief, which being opened by us, were found only to serve as covers to the French letters. In this he only follows the example of his superior, the Governor of Zanquebar, who notoriously assisted Monsieur Lally in the attempt upon Tanjour, as you no doubt will have heard from the gentlemen of Madras. The Danes so avowedly assisting our enemies have obliged us to have a watchful eye over them, and to take the steps necessary to prevent their continuing such a conduct; this has occasioned several protests from them, though in justice they ought rather to have thanked us for our lenity, since a single word from us to the Nawab would have been sufficient to have had them expelled the province. The French have made so ill a use of our indulgence in permitting them to reside in their former settlement, and we have judged it necessary to retract it, and have determined that no subject of France shall remain any longer here; we have accordingly sent directions to as many as remained, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the Coast upon the first vessels, so that we shall soon be entirely clear of them.

365.—*Mussulmans always ripe for revolt.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 7.]

The Moors are bound by no ties of gratitude, and every day's experience convinces us that Mussulmen will remain firm to the engagements no longer than while they are actuated by principles of fear, always ripe for a change wherever there is the smallest prospect of success.

366.—*The Court of Delhi.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 9.]

The success in Bengal has acquired us so great a reputation at the Court of Delhi, that the Vuzier has several times addressed himself to the President to use his interest with the Subah to comply with the Royal mandate, in paying the revenue due to the Mogul from his Subahship; and you will observe in the book of correspondence by letters from Setaub Roy, the Vuzier's agent, that the Court is extremely desirous of appointing the President the Collector of this revenue, amounting to 50 laack of rupees annually. The person invested with this employ,

who is stiled the King's Duan, is the second man of rank in the kingdom; such a dignity annexed to your Presidency would give extraordinary weight to the Company in the empire, which nothing could be able to remove; however, though repeated proposals have been made to the President, yet at this critical conjunction he has been under the necessity of evading them and managing his answers in such a manner as to protract time in the expectation of a more favourable opportunity. The accepting this employ might occasion jealousy on the part of the Subah, and we are unwilling to cause him any dissatisfaction at a time when our small force is engaged another way, especially as you, gentlemen, give us so little hopes of reinforcements from home.

367.—*Recruits often fitter for Hospital than for duty.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 13.]

We beg leave to remark it were much to be wished for the good of your service, that some other method were thought on for the recruiting your forces; while it is carried on in the present manner we can never expect good men, and indeed those we receive are very often fitter for an Hospital than for duty. Business of this nature, on which so much depends, should never be carried on by contract, as we believe it will be very hard to find any contractor so disinterested as to prefer the public to his own interests, and therefore it may naturally be presumed that, instead of taking the best men, he will choose those that can be got cheapest, and these will be always the worst.

368.—*Clive on the fertility of the Sunderbunds.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 31.]

The extent of the Pergunnah of Coney Turies is unknown; it reaches as far as Gunga Saugor to the south, the Sunderbunds to the east; the revenue it formerly yielded, we are informed on good authority, amounted to 40 laack of rupees, but the greatest part of this Pergunnah is now uncultivated, uninhabited, and overgrown with jungle.* The rents of it amount to no more than Rs. 2,925-9-0, and we pay the Nawab only Rs. 562-8-0.

CALCUTTA, 31*st December* 1758. } ROBERT CLIVE TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

* This confirms the statement that the Sunderbunds were once highly cultivated land.

369.—*Defence of Calcutta against the French Fleet.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 11.]

The Select Committee recommend that five boats should be prepared to be filled with combustibles in order to burn their ships in case they advanced up the river; that the pagoda at Ingelie should be washed black, the great tree at that place cut down, and the buoys removed or their positions altered. The Master Attendant and Captain Brohier were accordingly ordered to purchase boats and materials for the above-mentioned purpose, and to prepare everything for the execution of the scheme in case of an enemy's fleet advancing up the river.

370.—*Smuggling by Captains and Officers.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 32.]

We have given the strictest attention to prevent the clandestine importation of illicit commodities by the commanders and officers of your ships that the nature of the affair would admit of, by ordering all sloops and boats with private trade to be examined and inspected by the I. W. H. Kr. or people employed by him, before the goods were suffered to be landed with several other regulations, of which we gave you advice in our letters of last season. Your Honours may depend on our using our utmost endeavours to prevent the commanders and officers of your ships from landing more than your permission and indulgence allows of, and we hope the establishment of a Custom Master with warehouses for that purpose will more effectually put a stop to such practises.

371.—*Black velvet entirely rotten.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 36.]

We beg leave in this place to repeat our complaint of the black velvet, which for three or four years past has been entirely rotten.

372.—*Difficulty of settling weavers south of Calcutta.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 40.]

The provision of so large a proportion of our investment as possible within our own bounds is so desirable an object, and, we are sensible,

would be attended with so many advantages to our employers, that we shall leave no means unessayed to effect it. The new acquisition of lands would admit of a great number of weavers provided we could prevail on them to settle there, but we are apprehensive the lowness of the ground to the southward of Calcutta and the saltness of the air will be great impediments to their coming, nor can the cloth be dressed to such advantage where the water is brackish.

373.—*Civilians required as writers at Calcutta.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 42.]

Your orders in relation to sending annually a rotation of junior servants to reside at the cloth, *i. e.*, Aurungs should have been complied with had we servants sufficient at this settlement to spare for such services, but as we have barely enough for the writing business in the several offices, we shall be obliged to postpone your orders till we have a greater numbe of junior servants.*

374.—*The Gomastah at Kassimbazar convicted of fraud.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 53.]

Gentlemen at Cossimbazar acquainted us that upon examining the accounts of Kussenundah, the Company's Gomastah, they had found great reason to suspect him guilty of several frauds in the management of the investments; that they had already detected him in giving in false accounts for the year 1756, in which he had overcharged Rs. 8,427 in the real cost of the goods provided by him.

375.—*Nundcomar appointed Company's Tesildar.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 78.]

As we were of opinion, it was too troublesome a task for our European to collect in the payments amount. The tuncaws given us by the Nawab, and being willing likewise to get the moneys in the account

* In the present want of servants the Court was induced to confirm the appointment of Mr. Hewitt, one of the uncovenanted, to the covenanted service, bu they stated "this is a door that with very great reluctance we are ever induced to open."

brought by the Rajahs immediately to Hugley without being sent to Muxadavad, we appointed Nundcomar on the 19th August, Tesildar on behalf of the Company, he being recommended by the Select Committee as a person greatly attached to the English, and very capable of the employ we had appointed him to. His business is to call upon the Rajahs for the payments conformable to the kistybunds they have signed to, and when any considerable sum is received from them, to pay it into the Treasury; and in order to give him greater weight and influence with the Rajahs and Zemindars, we have procured a Perwannah from the Nawab empowering him to settle with the Rajahs, &c., for the amount of their tuncaws to the Company. We hope this method will have a good effect, and be a means of collecting in the money from those people without trouble and disputes.

376.—*Settlement at Chittagong,—the Mugs pillaging.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 84.]

Your Honours having recommended a settlement at Chittagong, we shall take a favourable opportunity to mention it to the Nawab and apply for permission to hoist our flag there, which we imagine will meet with no opposition. Indeed we have some reason to think that the whole province would be put into our hands on condition of paying the Nawab his present revenue, and keeping some armed vessels to cruize and prevent the inroads of the Mugs who annually infest those ports in boats, and do a great deal of damage by pillaging the villages and towns and plundering all boats and vessels that fall in their way.

377.—*Government lend two lacks to the Nawab.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 93.]

The Nawab since his return to Muxadavad* having requested the loan of two laack of rupees, which he is greatly in want of, large arrears

* The Nawab on the invitation of the President visited Calcutta at this time, which had a good effect in removing his jealousy of the English designs and lessening the impression spread by the French that the Nawab and English were not on good terms. The house he lived in and with which he was pleased was made a present to him by Government, who purchased it for Rs. 1,500; and it was subsequently made use of by his ambassador when he came to Calcutta, it may have been the Phausdari Bálákhaná.

being due to his troops who are very clamorous and importunate, and Mr. Hastings informing us that the loan would very much oblige the Nawab and facilitate the confirmation of the Sunnud for the lands to the southward and northward of Calcutta. We have agreed to lend him that sum, reserving to ourselves the rents and revenues of the lands the Company are to have the zemindary of, as security for the payment.

378.—*Frankland's statistical account of the lands south of Calcutta.**

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 101.]

No. 49 is a general abstract of all the Pergunnahs to the southward of Calcutta, and points out in a very circumstantial manner the quantity of ground contained in each of those Pergunnahs, the number of villages, markets, zemindars and farmers, how much ground is assigned over to the Geintoo Idols, to servants, &c., what quantity lays barren and uncultivated, and the net number of begahs that pay rent to the zemindars. By which it appears that out of 816,446 begahs the zemindars collect their rents on only 454,804 begahs, the rest being either barren and untenanted, or assigned over to servants, idols, &c.

The revenue produced by the ground paying rent amounts to Rs. 5,46,04,479 per annum, to which if we add the ground assigned over to idols and what lays untenanted (which in a few years will be cultivated and settled with riots) the Company will be able to collect between nine and ten laack of rupees on the ground to the southward, computing the value of each begah as is at present paid, and supposing the Pergunnahs contain no more than what the zemindars have given Mr. Frankland an account of, but this remains to be yet settled, and will, we flatter ourselves, turn out more when a proper measurement is made of the whole, which ought and must be effected, as the square Coveds in each begah differ almost in every Pergunnah as to the rents collected on them. We have great hopes likewise that by a proper management and encouragement, the value of the grounds in our boundary will in a few years be enhanced, and by that means the revenue thereof increased.

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* The original report was sent to England. Mr. Frankland was occupied from January to June on the enquiry.

By the above abstract the revenues to be paid the Nawab for the southern lands amounts to Rs. 2,15,000 or thereabouts; but as we have not entirely adjusted that point, and are in hopes of settling it more to the Company's advantage, we cannot at present precisely ascertain what the gains of this zemindary will amount to.*

379.—*Revenues formerly greater in Company's Zemindary.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 106.]

The revenues collected from the lands in the Company's zemindary have formerly been much more considerable than they are at present, the rents having decreased for many years past owing to oppressions, impositions of burthensome taxes, and such like reasons. The late calamity (of 1756) contributed to diminish the revenue in a great degree.

The method we recommend of lenity and easing the tenants of oppressions and burthensome taxes will, we are convinced, be approved of by your Honours, and is the most likely means of making this zemindary a very valuable and important acquisition to the Company.

380.—*Frankland's expenses in surveying* 22 *Pergunnahs.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 111.]

The getting possession of these lands has been attended with a charge of near Rs. 50,000, as it was necessary for Mr. Frankland to carry a great retinue and a large number of servants of all kinds. Add to this that the King's Connegoes were maintained at our expense, as well as the Gomastahs and other servants belonging to the zemindars, whose accounts we sent for. In the above sum about 5 @ Rs. 6,000 is for dead stock, such as tents, camels, &c., which are in the Company's stores. Since the month of July, the charges have decreased, and upon a medium do not exceed Rs. 3,700 per month for the whole 22 Pergunnahs.

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* There was also a return of the two Pergunnahs to the north of Calcutta, the zemindars of which "are entirely ruined by the loss of their lands." February, March, and April were then "dead seasons of the year for payments."

381.—*Farming arrack mischievous to the Military.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 116.]

On the 1st May the arrack farm was put up at outcry under certain restrictions and conditions, which are entered at large after that day's consultation. Mr. Edward Hundle purchased it for the sum of Rs. 4,000 current per annum. Upon a representation some time after that it occasioned much prejudice to the military who were continually intoxicated with liquor, after the setting up public shops for the sale of arrack, we suppressed the license given Mr. Hundle, and forbid his distilling or selling any more or permitting others to do it. In case that farm is not confirmed to Mr. Hundle, we shall take his case into consideration and make good the loss he may have suffered by suppressing his distilling after giving him a license for three years.*

382.—*Planting and Farming tobacco, cocoanuts and beetle.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 119.]

In the 151, 152, 153, 154, and 155 paragraphs of your commands of the 3rd March 1758, you offer to our consideration methods similar to those practised at Bombay and Madras for increasing the farms of tobacco, cocoanut trees, beetle and arrack at this settlement; your Honours may rely on our carrying into execution your directions as far as lays in our power, and encouraging the planting of cocoanuts, beetle, and tobacco. The former we imagine may, by proper management in a course of years, yield a large revenue by throwing part of the new lands into plantations of cocoanuts, which we shall take under consideration, and do the best we can for the Company's interest. The soil of our grounds, we believe, is not so proper for beetle and tobacco. If we find upon trial that beetle-nut trees may be raised with advantage, we shall not fail to plant them. But we are at a great loss in what manner to raise the tobacco farm to anything near the sum it pays the Company at Bombay. Your Honours will find that it was the opinion of the Committee (appointed to take those Regulations into consideration) that it would be proper to abolish the salt and tobacco farms, and they are great essentials of life with these country-people, and it would be a heavy grievance to the poor to continue those farms

* The license was withdrawn and Mr. Hundle received compensation.

and collect the customs likewise on tobacco and salt. We shall, however, take care that no tobacco or salt is brought into the place without paying duty of 4 per cent., which will, we believe, bring in a very handsome revenue.

383.—*Fort William expense, and value of the works.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARAS. 121—123.]

Captain Brohier last year transmitted your Honours a plan of the citadel he had recommended to be erected for the defence of this settlement against an European enemy, with an estimate of the expense it would amount to. The works have been carried on entirely under his inspection and direction, and are now in great forwardness; but it is impossible to say when they will be finished as they are very extensive, and as a great part of it depends on the number of cooleys and tank diggers we shall be able to get.

Notwithstanding this expense may appear very large at first, yet we are not without hopes that the Company will in time be reimbursed a great part of it, as it is beyond all doubt that, when the works are finished and a proper garrison kept up, it will be able to resist the largest force that can be brought to the attack of it. This once known, the greatest part of the riches of the country will, upon any change of affairs or sudden inroad of foreign enemies, be brought to this Fort as to a place of entire security, the proprietors whereof will be glad to pay a duty to the Company for the protection granted them and their effects. Remote as the expectation of such reimbursements may at present appear, it is far from being ill-founded, and both reason and experience evince that peace and tranquility are not long to be depended on in this part of the world.

384.—*Houses for Offices.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 127.]

A convenient house being much wanted for the public offices of this settlement, and for holding of Council, we have bought the dwelling house of the late Mr. Richard Court for the sum of Current Rs. 8,700 for the above-mentioned purposes. We likewise purchased Mr. Drake's house for the sum of Rs. 12,000, to be used as an Import Warehouse when the old Fort was clearing out to be converted into barracks for the military.

385.—*Commission refused for conduct unworthy an officer and a gentleman.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 142.]

Scott having transmitted our President a deposition made before him by Colonel Draper against Mr. Robert Millegan for behaving unlike an officer and a gentleman in his passage from Europe, we have thought proper to refuse him a Commission on our Establishment, and have ordered him to prepare to return to Europe, as we think after such a public complaint of his behaviour, it would be of great prejudice to the service to admit him into it, and occasion a remonstrance from the whole corps of officers.

386.—*Abolition of excise on the essentials of life.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 173.]

That Dammer and Oakum Farm be abolished, and that the duty on burdened oxen be also erected into a farm. The salt farm and that of tobacco shops we have abolished and ordered that the customs only be collected on the articles, as it would have proved a heavy grievance on the poor to have continued those farms and collected the customs likewise, those articles being essentials of life among these people. We shall relieve the poor in all articles of common consumption whenever the duty collected on them appears a grievance, conformable to your repeated commands.

387.—*The order against luxury and Palankins.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 179.]

A due regard shall be paid by us to your orders and recommendations for economy and frugality, and we shall, as much as lays in our power, enforce the same by our example and authority to the junior servants. The writers were sent for and the several paragraphs in your commands relative to them were read by the Secretary to them all in our presence. These orders were seconded by a strenuous recommendation to them from the Board to observe and follow the direction of our Honourable Masters, and the consequences of disobedience set before them in the strongest terms. We shall exact a compliance with the orders for laying down chaises and horses, but have been obliged to indulge them

with the use of a palankin in the hot months and rains, on account of the distance of some of their houses from the offices they belong to. When the citadel is finished and apartments for the servants are built contiguous to the Public Offices, there will be no occasion for the expense of a palankin, and we shall then oblige them to lay it aside.

388.—*The Writers to have 33 rupees monthly.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 31, PARA. 180.]

We shall pay the writers upon our Establishment 400 rupees per annum in future, agreeable to your directions. But there being no apartments built for them as yet, we have thought proper to continue the allowance of house-rent to them till places are made for their habitation in the New Fort.

389.—*Remittances in gold mohurs to Masulipatam.*

[CONSULTATIONS, JANUARY 25.]

We have sent to Mr. Andrews on the *Meromaid* sloop 3,500 gold mohurs for the expense of the expedition (to Masulipatam.)

390.—*Object of a Residency at Cuttack against the Mahrattas.*

[CONSULTATIONS, APRIL 10.]

Agreed we address Mr. Gray and acknowledge the receipt of his favor of the 31st ultimo, that as there is a prospect of the Morattoes coming into these provinces, it will be necessary we should be informed frequently of their numbers, motions and designs, which can be no otherwise effected than by his continuance in those parts. That the principal view in establishing a Residency at Cuttack was to obtain frequent and early intelligence of all occurrences to the southward of these provinces, as also to facilitate and expedite the correspondence with Vizagapatam, &c. These ends will be frustrated if he leaves Cuttack. We would, therefore, have him remain there while it can be done with safety to himself, and if we are rightly informed the Chout has been duly paid the Morattoes, and their entering this province at this time is not with any hostile view.

391.—*Proposed settlement at Chittagong.*

[CONSULTATIONS, AUGUST 4.]

Translate from Ramdrass Gomastah to Mr. McGuire.

I have delivered your letter by Amoode Zemindar to the Phousdar. Having received it, he answered that, without the Nabob's perwannah, he could not give an order for the English to settle a factory at Islamabad. I before addressed the Nabob that the English wanted a place to settle a factory at. The Nabob's orders were that, when I received his perwannah, he should then give the English a place. I have no power to give a place without the Nabob's orders. If you use force to settle a factory, I cannot help it, Sir. Without force no factory can be settled at Chittagong. We have spared no pains in representing the affair to the Phousdar, as you will observe by his letters.

392.—*More Madeira wanted,—Danes and French.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, FEBRUARY 8, PARAS. 12-13.]

We have this season been much distressed for want of the annual supply of Madeira wine, and, therefore, request you will next year send us a larger quantity than usual, as the consumption is now become much greater than formerly.

We having great reason to think that the Danes have supplied our enemies with provisions and saltpetre. In order to prevent the like practices, we have detained a ship of their's about to sail out of the river, as they alledged, for Tranquebar, and have sent her under the escort of the *Warren* to the gentlemen at Madras, that she might not carry her provisions to our enemies, which might be attended with the worst of consequences. The Danish gentlemen have protested against us on this occasion.

393.—*Neglect of Bengal in England.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, FEBRUARY 8, PARA. 7.]

Although we do not find that Mr. Pococke was arrived at Bombay the 15th November, we nevertheless hope he will be on the coast before the French fleet. The first naval engagement will probably decide the fate of India. Should he be so fortunate as to defeat the enemy and prevent their landing their troops, we may once more hope for the superiority; but should the fatal reverse happen, and Madras fall into the hands of the French, destitute as we are of men, fortifications and ammunition,

we know not how soon it may be our fate to march up the country, and relieve Monsr. Laws; and on this occasion we cannot forbear to remark that, considering the great acquisitions made by the success of your army in Bengal, both of an immense sum of money and a large grant of land, we had flattered ourselves you would have exerted your utmost efforts to support what has been so nobly acquired. But we find ourselves unhappily deceived, and even our indent for military stores so totally neglected, that the two last ships mentioned by your honours to be sent expressly to bring us military stores, their whole invoice of that article amounts but to £1,600 sterling.

394.—*The Great Mogul's letter to Lord Clive.**

[LETTERS TO COURT, MARCH 12.]

From Shah Alum Bahadre, son of Alum Guire, the Great Mogul, and successor of the Empire, to Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre, received 17th February 1759.

To the high and mighty protector of the great, Colonel Sabut Jung Bahadre.

Know that you are under the shadow of the King's favour. My beloved son Muddar and Doulah Bahadre, and the magnificent Phyaz Ally Cawn, worthy of our favour, have fully represented to me your readiness to expose your life for me, and many other particulars relating to you. In this happy time, with a view of making the tour of Patna and Bengal, I have erected my standard of glory at this place. It is my pure intention to bestow favour upon you, the high and mighty, and all faithful servants agreeable to their conduct. This world is like a garden of flowers interpersed with weeds and thorns, I shall therefore root out the bad that the faithful and good riots (God willing) may rest in peace and quietness. Know you, who are great, you should make it your business to pay your respects to me like a faithful servant, which will be great and happy for you.

* Lord Clive sent to the Court a number of letters addressed to him by Oriental Chiefs. They abound with the usual oriental butter; Shah Alum is described as "the prince of the world, and its people, who has erected his flaming standard of glory in these eastern parts." A Rajah writes to Clive "the friendship between the English and my family is of a thousand years standing." Another addresses Clive "health to the protector and favourer of the poor, the whole world know that you are the Bahadre of Bahadres." "Mr. Law with a few Europeans, has long attended on the stirrup of His Highness in alliance with him."

395.—*Refractory Pilots banished.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 7.]

The Master Attendant having complained to us of the insolent behaviour of Messrs. Toole and Cheworth, two of the Pilots, on which account he had suspended them from the service, we agreed to confirm that suspension in order to put a stop to such insolences for the future, and preserve the authority of the Master Attendant in his office. Mr. Toole being of a troublesome disposition and refractory behaviour, we ordered him to prepare to return to Europe by one of the first ships of this season,* but Mr. Cheworth having made a proper submission to Captain Barton, at his request we reinstated him in his employ.

396.—*Chandernagore demolished entirely except a few indigent widows' houses.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 49.]

In consequence of private advices that Mr. Lally had destroyed the houses at Fort St. David, and sold the materials at outcry, and that he had set fire and done all the damages he could to the houses at the Mount, we wrote to the President and Council of Fort St. George to learn from their authority the truth of these reports, which being confirmed by them, with this additional circumstance that Mr. Lally intended destroying the Black Town of Madras had he not been prevented by the timely arrival of our succours, we directed our Engineer, Captain Brohier, immediately to set about the demolition of the wharfs, magazines and houses, both public and private, at Chandernagore, which is now entirely completed, except the houses of a few indigent widows, which we have permitted to remain untouched.†

397.—*The Mint a loss owing to the Sets.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 60.]

Our Mint is at present of very little use to us, as there has been no bullion sent out of Europe this season or two past, and we are apprehensive that it will never be attended with all the advantages we might

* Mr. Toole refused to work on a sloop at the Dock-head, when ordered to do so by Captain Barton.

† See on this subject an able paper by Dr. Chevers in the Calcutta Medical Journal, on humanity in war.

have expected from it, as the coining of Siccas in Calcutta interferes so much with the interest of the Sets* that they will not fail of throwing every obstacle in our way to depreciate the value of our money in the country, notwithstanding its weight and standard is in every respect as good as the Siccas of Moorshedabad; so that a loss of batta will always arise on our money, let our influence at the Durbar be ever so great.

398.—*Farming the lands more advantageous than keeping them in Government hands.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 72.]

Upon the expiration of the Bengalee year, for which term the farm of our new acquired lands had been renewed with the former Ezardars, we took into consideration whether it would be more for the Company's advantage to keep those lands in our own hands or farm them out to the best bidder; we were unanimous in opinion that the keeping the lands in our own hands would not be so advantageous for our employers as farming them out, accordingly public notice was given that we would receive proposals for farming any of the pergunnahs or villages held by the Company. The said proposals to be given within twenty days from the date of the notice.†

399.—*Thatched Houses for Writers.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 84.]

There being a very great scarcity of houses in the Settlement, insufficient even for the present inhabitants, we have directed Mr. Bartholomew Plaisted, our Surveyor, to build slight apartments on the Cottah Godowns and on the Long Row in the old Factory for the reception of the Officers of Colonel Coote's Battalion and for the residence of as many writers as can conveniently be accommodated there. The expenses of this work will be but trifling, as the apartments are to be covered with thatch, and there will be but very little brick-work.

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* The Sets were at that time, from their enormous wealth, all-powerful at Moorshedabad, they were the Bankers, Mint Masters and political guides there.

† They were farmed out at outcry for three years; a number of Natives offered to farm them, but Holwell opposed it on the ground of the oppression it would lead to.

400.—*Europeans at Negrais cut off by the Burmese.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 125.]

Some time since the *Victoria Snow* returned from the Negrais with an account of Mr. Southby and all the Europeans there having been unhappily cut off by the Burmans, and that great part of the timbers and stores there belonging to the Company had been plundered and burnt.*

401.—*Supersession in the Service.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 135.]

Mr. Ellis will have a seat at our Board on his arrival here agreeably to the rank you have appointed him to; but we beg leave to observe that by this nomination you have superseded eleven of your servants on this Establishment, whose zeal for the Company and fidelity in their employments have never been questioned. Such conduct on your part, we apprehend, can never promote the service of that body who have entrusted you with the direction of their affairs, as it must render the servants abroad less assiduous in their stations and zealous for the interest of their employers, when they find their labours thus requited without any particular demerit on their side. Though it is probable the Company will not feel any bad effects in the present case, (those gentlemen who have been thus superseded having too true a sense of their duty to neglect the interest of their employers for any ill-treatment whatever) yet we are of opinion they will remain no longer in the service than their circumstances oblige them to. We might say the same thing with regard to your appointment of Captain James Barton to be so high in Council that the Government of this Presidency would have devolved upon him, had he lived, after the departure of Colonel Clive. How well-soever he might be qualified for the post of Master Attendant, we should have been apprehensive for the consequences had he been left in the chair.

402.—*Protest against the Court's insulting Letter.*†

[LETTERS TO COURT, DECEMBER 29, PARA. 147.]

We cannot, consistent with the real anxiety we feel for the future welfare of that respectable body for whom you and we are in trust, close this address without

* There were 40 Europeans settled there, besides 70 native carpenters, coolies, gardeners, fishermen, brick-makers, caulkers.

† The Court charged the Bengal Government with extreme negligence in filing a complete account of the plunder and booty taken both from the Moors and French, that their method of drawing bills was "cruel and barbarous to employers, who has lately treated many of you with the greatest lenity and indulgence," their management was denounced as "amazingly weak and highly injurious to our interests." Two of the Members of Council had been charged with receiving from Kissen Dass upwards of Rs. 50,000 for protecting his person against Suraja Daula; Holwell wrote an indignant minute in refutation of this, but he was degraded by the Court who suspected him of connivance.

expostulating with freedom on the unprovoked and general asperity of your letter per *Prince Henry* packet. Our sentiments on this head will, we doubt not, acquire additional weight from the consideration of their being subscribed by a majority of your Council, who are at this very period quitting your service, and consequently independent and disinterested. Permit us to say that the diction of your letter is most unworthy yourselves and us in whatever relation considered, either as masters to servants or gentlemen to gentlemen. Mere inadvertencies and casual neglects arising from an unavoidable and most complicated confusion in the state of your affairs, has been treated in such language and sentiments as nothing but the most glaring and premeditated frauds could warrant; groundless informations have, without further scrutiny, bore with you the stamp of truth, though proceeding from those who had therein obviously their own purpose to serve, no matter at whose expense. These have received from you such countenance and encouragement as must most assuredly tend to cool the warmest zeal of your servants here and everywhere else, as they will appear to have been only the source of general reflections, thrown out at random against your faithful servants of this Presidency in various parts of your letters before us. Faithful to little purpose if the breath of scandal joined to private pique, or private and personal attachments, have power to blow away in one hour the merits of many years' services, and deprive them of that rank and those rising benefits which are justly a spur to their integrity and application. The little attention shown to these considerations in the indiscriminate favour heaped on some individuals, and undeserved frowns on others, will, we apprehend, lessen that spirit of zeal so very essential to the well-being of your affairs, and consequently in the end, if continued, prove the destruction of them. Private views may, it is much to be feared, take the lead here from examples at home, and no gentlemen hold your service longer, nor exert themselves further in it, than their own exigencies require. This being the real present state of your service, it becomes strictly our duty to represent it in the strongest light, or we should with little truth and less propriety subscribe ourselves,

May it please your Honors, &c.,

(Sd.) ROBERT CLIVE,
„ C. MANNINGHAM,
„ R. BECHER,
„ W. FRANKLAND,
„ P. Z. HOLWELL,
„ W. MACKETT,
„ T. BADDAM,
„ C. S. PLAYDELL,
„ W. B. SUMNER,
„ W. Mc'GWIRE,
„ JOHN COOKE.

FORT WILLIAM,
December 29th, 1759.

403.—*The Armenians and a Romish Padri quarrel.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 4.]

The humble petition of thirty-six Armenian inhabitants of the said Town of Calcutta.

SHOWETH,—That one Padri Dionysius, an extract of an Armenian, but of the Roman religion, is always contriving and taking means and methods to stir up strife between your petitioners; also he, the said Padri Dionysius, is continually raising false reports against your petitioners, and which he never did nor could make it appear that any of his assertions, was true; your petitioners further make bold to represent to your honors, &c., that the said Padri Dionysius has taken the liberty to raise false reports and scandalous words against your petitioners' wives, and which false reports and scandalous words against your petitioners' wives are unsufferable to bear; also he, the said Padri Dionysius, takes ways and means to get false papers or written obligations from persons who stand justly indebted to other persons on bond, in order to deprive persons of their just rights and demands; your petitioners therefore most humbly pray your Honor and Council to send for the said Padri, and that he, the said Padri Dionysius may answer the above premises; and further that your petitioners may have justice done them, otherwise your petitioners with their families must be obliged to quit this settlement; your petitioners beg your Honor and Council to take their deplorable condition into your serious consideration, that your petitioners may have relief in the above premises.*

404.—*Danes from Serampore supply provisions to the French.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 11.]

We yesterday received a letter from Mr. Ziegenbelg and the gentlemen of Fredericknagore, desiring to know our reasons for stopping their Company's Ship *King of Denmark*. That we likewise answer the letter from Mr. Ziegenbalg and the gentlemen of the Danish Factory, and inform them that their partial behaviour to the French, as well as that of their superior, Governor Crag, has obliged us to be more watchful of their conduct in future; that as it is well known our enemies were last year supplied with provisions from Fredericknagore, we have detained their ship to prevent the like in future; but that if it be agreeable to them to land their rice at Madras, we will contract with them for it, and will order the payment of it there, or will account with them for it here.†

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* The Board decided that the Padri ought to be punished as the author of the calumny, and that Cojia Solomen was highly culpable in spreading a false report that Mr. Becher was bribed by the Armenians to pass their accounts, the Padri was "ordered to Bencolen for his ill-behaviour in this as well as in many other instances;" he was imprisoned immediately in the Fort for three months.

† Governor Crag was soon dismissed by the Danes, which restored an amicable feeling with the English.

405.—*Decay of trade an argument against additional duties. State of trade in the Persian Gulf. Grievances of merchants.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 15.]

To the HON'BLE ROBERT CLIVE, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council of Fort William.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—We, whose names are undermentioned, merchants and inhabitants of Calcutta, having heard that the increase of the Export and Import Customs of this place is now under the consideration of your Honor, &c., beg leave, on behalf of ourselves and others, to represent to your Honor, &c., the hardships that trade already lies under, and the impossibility of its continuing even on the precarious footing that it now is, if the Hon'ble Company's Customs in India are not rather diminished than increased.

We beg leave to assure your Honor, &c., that the trade in India is so much reduced that there is scarcely one port that a ship can go to from this place and return directly so as to make a tolerable good voyage, arising from the dearness of blocks since the revolution in Pegu, the increased price of all commodities in general, the failure of the sugar manufacture (which used to be the basis of our exports from this place) and the duties that are now levied at the various ports in India. These small profits at each port reduce a ship to the necessity of a trading voyage from port to port throughout the year, in the course of which trading voyages the Hon'ble Company often receive in duties a sum equal to a quarter or third, and sometimes above half, the original stock, as will plainly appear by the accounts hereunto annexed of a voyage performed not long since by a ship from this place to Madras, Persia, Bombay and back again here. Perhaps it may be asked why ships out of this port cannot pay customs equal to those who belong to Bombay and Madras, who trade to this place and other ports in India, as well as ships from hence? There are several very good reasons to be given in answer to this question; first, with regard to Bombay, their ships are not risen in value from what they were long ago, and though they are now and always were dearer than Pegu built ships, yet their durable structure renders them on the whole as cheap as Pegu bottoms were 20 years ago, which was about half the price that they now cost. Ships are sailed vastly cheaper from Bombay than from this place, because, besides having planks, cables and all coir cordages for half the price that it costs in Bengal, they have scarce any other port charges than their mercantile duties, and little risk going in; whereas the risks of ships coming into this river is very great, so also is the outfitting charges, and the expenses of anchors, cables, pilots, tow boats attending sloops, &c. is at least an expense to the owners more than the Bombay mercantile duties are to the owners of ships belonging to that port; and as for the Bombay ships coming sometimes into this river, the principal inducement is that they can buy cotton cheaper than we can there, and the low duties here; but if once the duties here are increased your Honor &c., may be well assured there will be no trade from Bombay to this place, or from hence to any ports in India.

We beg leave to observe to your Honor, &c., the great decrease of trade in India within these five years, more particularly to and from the ports of Surat, Gambroon and Bussorah, also to point out some of the causes of it.

Within these 20 years there has been from this port eight to ten sail of ships to Surat, and three, four or five to Bussorah in one season (though the French at that time were trading largely to them ports as well as we) and for the first three years of Mr. Wake's Government at Bombay we are well informed that his Surat Consulage of 2 per cent. amounted from thirty-eight to forty-three thousand Bombay Rupees annually, whereas Mr. Bourchier does not now receive ten. One to two ships with a small stock filled up with Moor's freights being all that now goes to Surat, and of ships that go into the Gulph of Persia few make any sales at Gambroon or Bussorah.

With regard to Surat, it will be said that trade is transferred to Bombay, and we believe a fourth part of it may, but the valuable part of it is transferred to Scindy and Muscat. Witness the great freight that is lately gone from hence to Scindy, such as was not known in former days, and witness the vast increase of trade at Muscat, to which port, as to a public fair or market, boats and vessels of all sizes resort, from the Malabar coast, from every port and creek between Surat and Gambroon, from every place in the Gulph of Persia, and from every Arabian village westward to Mocha; also from the coast of Africa quite to Mozambique, which upon the whole is so very great that the country does not consume above one-sixth of their imports, so that Muscat serves for a place of common barter to the surrounding nations, while Surat and Gambroon, the principal seaports of the Mogul and Persian Empire, from whence the Hon'ble Company reaped great advantages by Customs, and their servants by Trade, are now dwindled to fishing towns.

These changes, so hurtful to trade in general, and to the Hon'ble Company in particular, must be imputed chiefly to the high port charges at Surat and Bussorah; to convince your Honor, &c., of which, we beg leave to acquaint you that a ship in 1755 sold at Surat to the amount of Rs. 54,481, upon which the charges of merchandize (exclusive of commission and the ship's charges for ballast, water, &c.) was Rs. 6,390 which is nearly 12 per cent. of the produce, Rs. 34,859 was invested, upon which the export charges was Rs. 3,699 which is above 10½ per cent.

In 1754 some piece goods were sent in a boat from Bushire to Bussorah, they sold for 95,736 Mamoodys, upon which the charges of merchandize were 9,352 Mamoodys, or 9¾ per cent., and this exclusive of commission; but had the goods been gruff, or had the ship gone to Bussorah, the charges would have been greatly increased by the Basshour's present, house rent, &c., expenses, pilotage, &c.

Your Honor &c., may be assured that no voyage since the foregoing instances has or can be managed with more frugality. Let any merchant then judge whether the Hon'ble Company's duties ought not to be rather diminished than increased, especially when it is considered that a Dutch or French ship would not have paid so much as the English ship did at Surat by 3 or 4 per cent., nor at Bussorah by 3 per cent.; and as it is demonstrable by figures that where different nations trade to the same place, and some of them shall have a certain gain of 4 or 5 per cent. above the others, such profit will enable them to undersell the others, and entirely deprive them of that

trade; this is the present state of the trade to Bussorah, other nations pay 3 per cent. to the Turks and no more; but we, besides 3 per cent. to the Turks, pay about 5 to the Hon'ble Company, which has so greatly impaired the trade, that since 1752 no ship has gone there from this place that would avoid it; or if they were necessitated to go there and deliver freight, they took care to sell most part of their cargoes at Muscat and ports in Persia before they entered the river; but since Persia has been involved in civil wars, the Dutch have settled and made a free port of the Island Carrack (about thirty leagues from Bussorah River) where a gentleman now in this place sold lately to a large amount, and the whole charges of merchandize (exclusive of the Supercargo's Commission) was not $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. at this Island, therefore the Bussorah trade will chiefly centre in future if the customs are not lowered, and if they are increased here what little trade is left will be transferred to the Dutch, for though they pay customs to the Moors, it is well known that by lumping them with the Country Government they scarcely pay 2 per cent. on Imports, and as much upon Exports, the whole about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent. Now we pay at present $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. export duty on rice, 2 per cent. on all other goods, and 1 per cent. upon all imports, in all about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., the difference of $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. that they pay more than us is a trifle when compared to the great advantages they reap by their trade from Batavia in the valuable articles of sugar, arrack, timber, rattans, pepper, &c., &c., which we have not at least not as they purchase them.

In the foregoing part of this letter we have said that the decrease of trade is owing chiefly to high duties; let it not however be understood that the customs are the sole cause of this misfortune, There are several others, but being of an invidious nature we shall pass them over, and only beg that your Honor &c. will represent to the Hon'ble Company the hardships trade now labours under, and in order to prevent its entire ruin prevail upon them to order the following regulations, *viz.*,—that to trade to every Port in India where owners may choose to send their ships be free to all English vessels; that no further restraints nor duties be laid on trade anywhere in India, on the contrary that duties be considerably lessened at Bombay, Surat and Bussorah for reasons already mentioned; also that the 3 per cent. advance duty on Malabar pepper be taken off at Surat, because the Hon'ble Company get not a grain of pepper more by it at Tellicherry, and it only prevents an Englishman from trading in an article that every Banyan trades in; that proper encouragement may be given to retrieve the valuable manufacture of sugar, unaccountably lost in this place, (which by causing a great export of rice, enhances the price of labour, and consequently of all other gruff, piece good and raw-silk) particularly that no Export nor Import duties be levied upon Bengal sugar at any English Settlement for * years.

That due encouragement be given for to manufacture sugar, arrack, &c., &c., at Bengal, for that place may soon be brought to rival Batavia and greatly increase trade. And lastly, that the following orders obtained from the Hon'ble Company many years ago, (and since turned to the ruin of trade) be revoked, *viz.*,—the order that no person without permission from the President shall remain in the rainy

* Sic. in original.

season at Surat, nor at any subordinate Factory in India, except the Hon'ble Company's servants belonging to the Presidency under whose direction the subordinate is The order for all Captains and Supercargos at Gambroon to reside in the Factory, and sell their goods in presence of the chief. The order made lately at Bombay for no Englishman at Bussorah, &c., to apply to the Country Government for recovery of debts, &c., but through the Resident.

That the practice at Surat of a Company's servant obliging every ship to hire their boats and cooleys from him be strictly forbid, and every one free to hire their boats and coolies where he can.

That your Honor &c., may perceive the reason why revoking these orders is absolutely necessary, we beg leave to observe that they were originally procured by unjust representations of private traders getting into quarrels with the Country Government and thereby involving the Company's affairs, which is in every respect untrue, for private traders scarce ever got into such quarrels, nor ever embroiled the Company's affairs, tho' chiefs of subordinate factories often have. So far are private merchants from having differences with any Government, that many of them have remained the whole year very peaceably at Judda, which is probably the most troublesome port in the world; the same has been done at Mocha, Bussorah, Muscat, Scindy &c. With regard to Bussorah, permit us to suppose (a very possible case, *viz.*,) that some future Resident (or one of his creatures) should want to buy a ship's cargo for the half of its value, the Supercargo refuses to sell at that rate and then disposes of his goods to others at the market price. There as well as here to sell at trust is necessary;—if the buyers are backward in paying, or a drunken Janizary should affront the Supercargo, it is submitted to your Honor &c., whether such a Resident would procure payment of the debt or redress for the affront, so that this order really obliges the merchant to sell to the chief or to nobody. If indeed the merchant's voice is too feeble to procure redress, and he applies to the Chief for assistance, then (and not before) the Chief should exert himself and procure relief by pleading the Hon'ble Company's privileges, firmans, &c., among the Moors and among the Turks, the treaties subsisting between them and Great Britain.

The order relative to Gambroon has rendered it impossible to sell to any one but the Chief for these 20 years past, because no merchant will come to purchase at the Factory &c.; and when a market is reduced to only one buyer, the trade, however considerable before, must be ruined, which in fact that of Gambroon is.

With regard to Surat your Honor &c., knows very well that Bengal ships commonly arrived there in March or April, and that the rains begin in May and continue till September, during which time no ship can remain with safety in the Roads; if then the Merchants enter into a combination (as they commonly do) to make the Supercargo sell his goods at a low rate, and buy their cotton &c., at a high rate, he must either agree to their prices or leave his goods consigned to a stranger, both which cases are ruinous to himself and owners; but if he would stay with the cargo himself, or leave his purser, the ship might be returned to Bengal, or sent to Bombay to return when the rains are over, during which time the confederacy would perhaps break of itself, or he might break it by selling in very small quantities and buying in the same manner; indeed, it is the knowledge of the Supercargo's short stay (in consequence of this

order) that causes these schemes, and with regard to boats, cooleys, &c., the charge is so great that with the Customs and Supercargo's commission, the ship-owners now pay 17 to 18 per cent port charges upon Imports, besides what they pay on Exports; how indeed should it be otherwise when all boats and cooley must be all taken from one or two persons at their own prices.

The importance of the subject of this letter will, we hope, excuse the length, and as the honor as well as the interest of the Hon'ble Company is so strictly annexed with the trade in India, we hope your Honor, &c., will comply with our requests, and believe us to be with great respect,

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Sd.)	DAVID RANNIE.	(Sd.)	JAMES BARTON.
,,	EDWARD HARDWICK.	,,	JOHN GOULD.
,,	CHARLES DOUGLAS.	,,	A. BEAUMONT.
,,	JAMES AMYATT.	,,	H. BAILLIE.
,,	JOHN EDWARDS.	,,	EDWARD ROCHE.
,,	JOHN SMITH.	,,	JNO. MACKMATH.
,,	JOHN DURAND.	,,	JOHN KNOX.
,,	WILLIAM ORMSTON.	,,	PETER DUNCAN.
,,	JNO. MENZIES.	,,	JOSEPH AUSTIN.

CALCUTTA,
December 28th, 1758.

406.—*Large territorial acquisition contrary to the Company's interest.*

[PROCEEDINGS OF SELECT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 15.]

Another letter to Mr. Andrews. Send him 3,500 gold mohurs. The President of the 19th informs him of Colonel Forde being on the march to besiege Masulipatam. By the tenor of Mr. Andrew's letter it appears as if he entertained thoughts of taking possession of large territories in the Company's name, as we judge, contrary to the Company's interest on many accounts. First, as requiring a larger force than at present can be spared, as being inconsistent with the general plan of assisting the gentlemen on the coast in driving the French entirely out of India, and lastly, that the revenues of the couutry will not be sufficient to defray the charges of maintaining them, and that, if hereafter such

circumstances should arise as might render it necessary or advantageous to the Company to possess themselves of countries, they will always have it in their power when they find the revenues will answer the expense of maintaining them.

407.—*Sepoys' diet expenses.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 15.]

Boat rice extraordinary for the Gentoo Seapois, 49 maunds 8 seers	86	0	0
20 Potts Jagry	16	4	0
Arrack for the Seapois by Captain Powell's order...	18	0	0
Arcot Rs.	120	4	0

408.—*Company's sloop attending ships out of the river.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 23.]

Received a letter from the Master Attendant, representing that it was formerly customary for all Europe ships to pay one hundred rupees for the Company's sloop attending them out of the river. Ordered that it in future be demanded.*

409.—*Black writers dismissed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 5.]

That the black writers be dismissed the office, unless the Secretary thinks it absolutely necessary to keep them for some time to bring up the business.†

410.—*Free Masons.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 13.]

Messrs. Holwell and Mapletoft, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Masons, lay before the Board in behalf of the said Lodge the sum of Rs. 2,475, which bond ... was lost at the capture of Fort William.

* This sloop was a guide through the ... mazes of the dangerous Hooghly, unsafe then but worse now, though steam tugs attend.

† These black writers were generally so ca... led Portuguese, very ignorant and unsafe to trust State secrets with.

411.—*Sunnud of lands.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 26.]

A translation of the Sunnud for the zemindaree of the Hon'ble East India Company's lands, given under the seal of the Nabob Allaoo Dowlah Mir Mahomed Saddoe Khan Bahadoor Assud Jung, Dewan of the Soubah of Bengal.

To the Mootsuddies for affairs for the time being and to come, and Chowdries and Canoongoes and inhabitants and husbandmen of the Kismut Pergunnah of Calcutta, &c., of the Sircar Sautgaum &c., belonging to the paradise of nations the Soubah of Bengala, be it known—That in consequence of the Ferd Sawal signed by the glory of the nobility and administration, Shuja Ul Mulk Hossain á Dowlah Mir Mahomed Jaffir Khan Bahadoor Mahabut Jung Nazim of the Soubah, and the Ferd Huckeekut and Mutchilea signed conformably thereto, the terms of which are herein fully set forth, the office of the zemindaree of the pergunnahs above written, in consideration of the sum of Rs. 20,101 (twenty thousand one hundred and one rupees) Peshcush &c., to the Imperial Sircar, according to the endorsement, from the month Poos (An. 1164) in the year eleven hundred and sixty four of the Bengal era, is conferred upon the noblest of merchants the English Company, to the end that they attend to the rites and customs thereof, as is fitting; nor in the least circumstance neglect or withhold the vigilance and care due thereto. That they deliver into the Treasury in the proper times the due rents of the Sircar; that they behave in such a manner to the inhabitants and lower sort of people, that by their good management the said pergunnahs may flourish and increase. That they suffer no robbers nor housebreakers to remain within their districts, and take such care of the King's highways that the travellers and passengers may pass and repass without fear or molestation. That (which God forbid) if the effects of any person be plundered or stolen, they discover and produce the plunderers and thieves, together with the goods, and deliver the goods to the owners, and the criminals to condign punishment, or else that they themselves be responsible for the said goods. That they take especial care that no one be guilty of any crime or drunkenness within the limits of their zemindaree. That after the expiration of the year they take a discharge, according to custom, and that they deliver the accounts of their zemindaree, agreeable to the stated forms, every year into the dufterçana of their sircar, and that they refrain from demanding the articles forbidden by the Imperial Court (the asylum of the world.)

It is their (the Mutsuddies &c.,) duty to look upon the said Company as the established and lawful zemindar of these places, and whatsoever appertains or is annexed to that office is their right. In this particular be they strictly punctual. Dated the first of Rubbee Ossanee in the third sun of the reign.

412.—*Explanation of terms.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 26.]

Explanations of the terms* used in the Sunnud granted for the zemindaree of the Hon'ble Company's lands.†

ABOAB PHOJDAREE.—Pergunnah page 5. Many zemindars complaining of the great oppressions of the phojdaree, formerly obtained from the Nabobs an exemption from the jurisdiction of the phojdaree in consideration of their paying to the Government the amount of the income which was produced by the fines of that office, every zemindar being assessed proportionably for that amount, which tax has continued ever since, and is passed under the head of the Pergunnah Aboab Phojdaree.

BENGALA.—Soobah Jennat ul Belaod Bengala. The Paradise of Nations, the Subah of Bengala, a title given by Aurungzebe to Bengal.

CANOONGOES.—Registers of the Subah.

CHOWDREES.—Landholders in the next rank to Zemindars.

CHUCKLAH.—The jurisdiction of a Phojdar, who receives the rents from the Zemindars, and accounts for them with the Government.

DEEH.—The ancient limits of any village or parish. Thus Deeh Calcutta means only that part which was originally inhabited.

DIHROOBUST PERGUNNAS.—Whole or entire pergunnahs which depend on a single Zemindar.

DIVISION.—In the original Rokkum. The proportions of the Kissmut Pergunnahs are reckoned by annas or sixteenths. It may be observed that many of the Kissmut Pergunnahs are termed divisions of 16 annas.—The reason of which is, that the lands included bear so small a proportion to the rest that they are not rated at all.

DUFTERCANA.—The Exchequer or Office for keeping the Government accounts.

FERD HUCKEKUT.—A manifest or memorial.

FERD SAWAL.—A petition.

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* These documents were forwarded by Mr. W. Hastings, the Resident at Moradbag, whose services before and subsequent to Plassey were of the greatest value; he entered fully into the condition of the Oriental.

† This is the first definition we have of these Mussulman terms. Professor H. H. Wilson and Sir H. Elliot have given us subsequently complete ones.

HUK ALWAZEERUT.—Page 3rd. The fees of the vizier.

JAGUEER SIRCAR.—Such lands as were made over to the munsubdars, or persons invested with dignities, for their maintenance are called Jagueers. Sircar means the Jagueer of the Government or the Nizam.

KISSMUT.—Signifies a division when any part of a Pergunnah is transferred from one Zemindaree and assigned over to another, each part or division is called a Kissmut Pergunnah, as the Kissmut Pergunna of Billea Bassundaree, of which 10 annas or $\frac{5}{8}$ths belong to the Company's jurisdiction, and 6 annas or $\frac{3}{8}$ths to Raja Tilluck Chund.

MUCHILCA.—An indenture of agreement.

MAHAL.—Every fund which produces the revenues of the Government is called a *Mahal.* In the Sunnud it includes only *Pergunnahs* and *Sairs.*

MOBŒEE SALT AND WAX.—The rents of the Pergunnah arise entirely from the sale of salt and wax, from whence it takes its name. As there is no ground rent collected in this Pergunnah, it is therefore termed no Division.

MOUZA.—A Parish.

MUTSUDEES.—All persons employed in taking the accounts of a Subah.

NAZIM.—A Viceroy or Governor of a province.

NAZERONA.—Subadaree page 3rd. The fees of the Nazim.

PERGANA.—A country, any number of mouzas (or parishes) the rents of which are collected at one place called a Cutcheree.

PESHCASH SIRCAR.—Walla page 3rd. A fine paid into the Emperor's Treasury.

POOS.—The 9th month of the Bengal year, answering nearly to the month of December.

SAIR'S.—Any place or office appointed for the collection of duties and customs. In the pergunnahs of Hattiagar, Muda and Mudonmull and Moodagotcha, a duty was collected on salt and paid formerly to the Buxbunderee, which having been made over to the Company is inserted in the Sunnud for the lands.

SIRCAR.—A term given to any number of pergunnahs placed under one head in the Government's Book, for the easier adjustment of the accounts; any office under the Government is likewise termed a Sircar.

SUBAH.—A province.

SEMSOOK HAZIR ZAMINEE.—A security for personal appearance.

SUNNUD.—A charter or patent.

413.—*Flogging on Friday.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 5.]

The quorum of zemindars lay before the Board their proceedings of the 30th March and 3rd April, in the former of which Ashruff being sentenced to receive one hundred and one lashes every Friday for three months, and Manick Dass the same punishment, the Board confirm the same, and order the sentence to be executed.*

414.—*An Armenian Smuggling Arrack.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 9.]

An Armenian having been detected in importing a quantity of arrack into the town over and above what he was permitted to bring. Ordered it to be confiscated to the use of the Company.

415.—*A license for fireworks.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 14.]

Moendy, a fireworker, sends in a petition desiring he may be permitted to sell all other sorts of fireworks except rockets. As it is that kind of fireworks only which is dangerous to the houses and buildings, —Agreed that other sorts be permitted to be made and sold, and that the farm be continued as usual.

416.—*Rules for farming lands.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 21.]

Notice is hereby given that any person or persons who are willing to farm any of the Pergunnahs or Parishes in the Hon'ble Company's new lands, may send in their proposals to the Board within twenty days from the date hereof; a lease for which

* One Edu, a Lascar, was subsequently sentenced to receive 101 chawbuks every succeeding Friday for the murder of his wife Pánchi.

farms, if their proposals are accepted, will be granted them for the term of three years on the following conditions, *viz.* :—That the rents are not to be increased on the riots of the present tenanted for riotty grounds, but may on grounds untenanted (or Badgi Jemin) and in case any jungles (or palit) grounds are cleared, the farmer is to pay a russud or annual increase for the same according to the payments in the before mentioned term of three years. As soon as the measurement or jummabundy is finished, the farmer is to pay for the increase of lands agreeable thereto. The farmer is not to turn out any riots that duly pay their rents agreeable to their pottahs. No trees are to be cut down without leave. The new farmers are to accept of the balances of the riots with the former farmers. The judicial authority is to be reserved to the Company with all royalties, &c., privileges appertaining to them as proprietors, and lords of the manor. The farmer is not to decide the disputes of castes, nor is he to license marriages in his district without proper authority. If any of the riots die without lawful heirs, the farmer is to take a true and exact inventory of his or their effects and send it to the Cutcherry, but is not to deliver or give up the said effects to any one without an order. The farmer is to observe and obey all such orders as shall be sent him from time to time concerning the Company's business. The farmer is to take proper care and guard his districts with such people as shall be allowed him. He is not to grant lands for roads, tanks, &c., (Badgi Jemin) without lease. He is to collect and receive rents from the riots as usually have been collected by the former Ezardars; he is also to repair all banks, dams, drains, &c., as customary.

417.—*An Italian Missionary's Petition.**

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 31.]

To the President and Gentlemen Councillors at Calcutta.

Frere Daniel, Capuchin and Superior of the Hospital for Monks of the Reverend Father Capuchins, Italian Missionary Apostolic of the Holy See of Rome, in the kingdom of the great and small Thibet, in the Patna, Bettia, Nipaul, Khutmandoo and Batgao, requests most humbly the President and Gentlemen of Council to have regard to what follows:—

First.—Your petitioner is much alarmed at hearing that you gentlemen have taken the resolution to order their Home and the Church of the said Fathers to be erased, particularly as they are not French, and have nothing in common with the

* Written on hearing the intention of the English Government to destroy all buildings in Chandernagore, see No. 396. Monsieur Courtin and the inhabitants of Chandernagore sent in a petition against this barbarous act to destroy houses which sheltered the English in 1756. "The Council delayed carrying out the measure, on which Clive remonstrated, stating the demolition was a laudable national revenge for the ungenerous treatment we have received from the French; the rules of war in all civilized nations authorize reprisals."

French nation, saving the protection of the flag, whilst they had the power to hoist it on the weak bastions of the Factory here in Chandernagore. On their having lost this power, the said Father Capuchins immediately put themselves under the protection of the English flag, as was permitted them by the two English admirals when they became masters of the place, also Mr. Drake, former Governor of Calcutta, and by the present Mr. Clive, Colonel of his Britannic Majesty's Troops in Bengal.

Secondly.—The suppliant begs the President and Gentlemen of Council to reflect that in blending the said Fathers with the French, you distress them much more than the French who have their own nation to nourish them, and who takes all possible care of them; whereas the Italian Father Capuchins neither belong nor have any connection with the French nation, and not having entered their interest, neither during the siege, which they expressly avoided that they might not give umbrage to the English, nor on any other occasion, had they reason to expect any success from that quarter. In fact did they make mention of them in the Articles of Capitulation, have they afforded them the least subsistence since the taking of Chandernagore? Judge from hence if the French will ever assist to rebuild their House and Church should it be destroyed, and consequently by supposing to treat us as French, you treat us a hundred times worse; abandoning us as a prey to misery without any one to have recourse to, though by their profession as Apostolic Missionaries and Ministers of the Gospel, they are friends to the English and all the natives of the Universe.

Thirdly.—The Petitioner thinks himself in right to represent that this House and Church of the Italian Fathers, Missionarys should be looked upon as a privileged building belonging to a Sovereign Power, the Court of Rome. It is not the priests who are the proprietors of these buildings but the Holy See, who as a Sovereign Prince requires that their houses should be respected in whatever part of the world they are found. Moreover the Churches which, exclusive of the protection of Sovereign Princes, claim the protection of the King of Kings, and it is certain the most barbarous nations have not denied immunity to temples consecrated to the service of the Most High, though irritated to the greatest degree and though they demolished all other buildings. From this weighty reason, your petitioner hopes to obtain from the English, the most enlightened, the most generous, and the most humane nation of Europe, not ignorant of the laws of justice, of the rights of nations and individuals, and which of consequence must be fully satisfied that Missionaries destined to the conversion of infidels are exempt from the revolutions which happen in States, and that they cannot be regarded as criminals the more for being settled in one colony than in another; nor involved in the changes which happen, this being detrimental to the propagation of the Faith, and the progress of the Italian Religion.

This, Gentlemen, is the substance of what the Petitioner begs leave to represent, but to show more plainly the wretched situation which you will reduce us, the Italian Priests, Missionaries of the Mission of Thibet, I must add, that this house and Church which you have resolved to destroy have always been the support and asylum of the Missionaries which are sent from Europe, that by this channel the correspondence with the Mission and with Rome is carried on, and to deprive them of this resource will endanger and almost entirely ruin the Mission, which may occasion a controversy not only at the Court of Rome, but also at that of England.

But O my God! is it possible you can make such strange resolutions against the poor helpless Italian Missionaries? you, who have always been their protectors, whether at Madras, Bombay, Bengal or elsewhere; what misfortune of ours can have incited your indignation against us? you favour us with your protection and destroy us the same day; you regard us as people who have never injured the English nation, and on that account have twice put us in possession of our House and Church, and now you would utterly destroy us; you tell us the French are the causes of this change of sentiments; I grant it, but shall you think yourselves well revenged by confounding us with them? be persuaded, gentlemen, you may do us the greatest injury in the world without causing any Frenchman to drop a single tear. The reason is evident, we are not French, nor servants to the French; therefore whatever can befall us will be indifferent to them. Moreover, by your vengeance on us to attempt to revenge yourselves on the French will be ineffectual and will only retort on us. To conclude, we acknowledge you to be our masters, behave to us like masters and not like enemies, which is what your petitioners request, having the honor to be with the most profound respect.

CHANDERNAGORE,
The 24th May, 1759.

SIR AND SIRS,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Sd.) F. DANIEL CAPUCHIN.

418.—*Calcutta Servants and their wages.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 21.]

At a Meeting of the quorum of Zemindars.

PRESENT:

RICHARD BECHER,
WILLIAM FRANKLAND,
JOHN ZEPHANIAH HOLWELL,
Esquires.

Taking into consideration the united complaints of the inhabitants with respect not only to the insolence but exorbitant wages exacted by the menial servants of the settlement for some time past, and having duly weighed and considered the premises, we are of opinion that their complaints are too justly founded and loudly call for redress; the more especially as we cannot trace any the least equitable cause or pretence for such exorbitant rise of wages during a period that grain and other necessaries of life have been and still are considerably cheaper than heretofore. In order therefore to relieve the said inhabitants from these heavy and unwarrantable grievances, it is now agreed that the following remonstrances and regulations be submitted to the Hon'ble the President and Council for their consideration and approval, premising that the root of these evils lie in our servants being admitted into the body of Sepoys, or received on the works of the new fortifications, and that until the causes be removed by a positive prohibition from the President and Council, all attempts to redress their insolence and exaction will be rendered fruitless.

First.—That a rate of monthly wages be established according to the underwritten list of servants in private service.

Second.—That if any servant refuses service agreeable to such established rate of wages, his possessions in land be sequestered, and himself and family secluded the settlement; but if no possessions in land, that he then, on conviction of such refusal, do suffer such fine, imprisonment, or corporal punishment as the Court of Zemindary shall judge meet, and be obliged to serve or quit the settlement.

Third.—That if any master presume to exceed the established rate of wages on any pretence whatever, shall be debarred all redress from the Court of Zemindary, and the protection of the Settlement withdrawn from him.

Fourth.—That if any servant presume to quit his service without one month's warning, he shall, on conviction, be liable to fine, imprisonment and corporal punishment at the discretion of the Court of Zemindary.

Fifth.—That if any master eviltreat his servant or use him or her with unjustifiable severity, such servant shall be entitled to redress and releasement from his service on regular complaint made and proved before the quorum of sitting Justices, or Court of Zemindary; provided, nevertheless, that no plea of ill-usage shall be deemed to exculpate any servant quitting his service before regular complaint made of such his ill-usage.

Sixth.—Servants' rate of wages in private service,

Consumah, Christian, Moor or Gento	5 Arcot Rs. per mensem.
Chubdar	
Head Cook...	
Coachman...	
Head female Portuguese servant	
Jemadar	4 Rs.
Khedmutgar	3 Rs.
Cook's first Mate	
Head Bearer	
Second female servant	

	Rs.	As.
Peon	2	8
Bearers		
Washerman to a family	3	
Do. to a single person	1	8
Syce	2	0
Mussalchee		
Shaving Barber	1	8
Wig do.		
Crutchpurdar	2	0
House Molly		
Grass Cutter	1	4
Harry Wench or woman to a family	2	0
Ditto to a single man...	1	0

Wet Nurse	4 0
Dry do.	
House Tailor to give attendance during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September precisely at the hour of seven in the morning, and during the months of October, November, December, January, February and March precisely at eight on pain of corporal punishment, if complaint is made and proved before the Court of Zemindarry	3 0

Seventh.—That the established rate of servants' wages be published by beat of Drum (Tom Tom) and also affixed to the most public places of the Town in English, Persian, Bengali and Nagree.

Eighth.—That it be recommended to the Hon'ble the President and Council to direct the succeeding quorum of Justices to form a certain rate to be paid by our servants for washing as well as making their clothes, &c., necessaries.

Ordered that the district commonly called the Hernbarry be converted into a Workhouse and House of Correction, and that a keeper of the House of Correction be appointed.

(Sd.) RICHARD BECHER.
„ W. FRANKLAND.
„ J. Z. HOLWELL.

* About thirty years later the rate was—

	Rs.
Consumah	from 10 to 25
Chubdar	from 6 to 8
Head Cook	from 12 to 20
Coachman	from 10 to 20
Head female servant	from 10 to 16
Jemadar	from 8 to 15
Khedmutgar	from 6 to 10
Cook's first Mate	from 6 to 10
Head Bearer	from 6 to 10
Second female servant	... 8
Peons	from 4 to 6
Bearers	from 3½ to 4
Washerman to a family	from 10 to 20
Ditto to a single gentleman	from 4 to 8

* Rice was at that time 2 mands for the rupi, Salt 2 rupis a mand.

Syce	...	...	...	...	from 5	to	6
Mussalchee	...	...	...	...	...		4
Shaving Barber	...	...	...	...	from 2	to	4
Crutchpurdar	...	...	...	...	...		4
House Molly	...	...	...	...	...		4
Grass Cutter	...	...	...	...	from 2	to	4
Wet Nurse	...	...	...	...	from 12	to	14
Dry Nurse	...	...	...	...	from 12	to	14

419.—*The Calcutta Beggars' Petition.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 20.]

To the Hon'ble the President and Council of Fort William.

The humble Petition of Jibundass Boyragee, Basdeb Bormocharee, &c., Beggars.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—That your Petitioners, being the Bramins, &c., of this Town of Calcutta, beg leave to address your Honor, &c., that they are in all two hundred persons, and they were permitted by Sunnud from the President and Council to collect daily alms from each shop or doocan of this place at five cowries per diem to divide amongst them all, and your Petitioners accordingly had collected their alms ever since. Now the shop-keepers or doocan fellows since the Hon'ble Company's ghâts are erected, refuse to give the said alms. Therefore your Petitioners most humbly entreat and supplicate your Honors, &c., will be gracious enough as to take it into consideration and grant them an order that they may be able to collect their alms as usual.

420.—*Nuddea Rajah's Revenue.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 20.]

Kistbundy of Rajah Kissenchund for the Pergunnah of Nuddea, &c., for the Bengal year 1166.

	Rs.
Tuncow for 1166 is for	9,00,000
Deduct, Nuddea lands included the Company's lands	64,048
	8,35,952

Sign and Seal of Kissenchund Roy.

August	80,000	
September	90,000	
October	55,000	
November	1,20,000	
December	1,30,000	
January	1,00,000	
February	80,000	
March	20,000	
April	40,000	
May	60,000	
June	60,952	
		8,35,952

I promise to pay the above sum of 8,35,952, agreeable to the Kistbundee, without delay or failure I will pay the same into the Company's Factory. I have made this that it may remain in full force and virtue. Dated the 23rd of the moon Zulhaide, and the 4th August, of the Bengal year 1166.

421.—*The Armenians' Petition regarding Restitution Money.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 3.]

That some part of your Petitioners being now labouring under the greatest hardship and trouble imaginable, by reason most of your Petitioners having large families and without one single rupee to help or support themselves, unless they sell some of their things or goods for half value; that others being indebted to sundry persons on account of sums we have taken up and borrowed from time to time, and which persons are daily vexing and harrassing your Petitioners for their demands, and which if not complied with they threaten to throw your Petitioners into a Jail; your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray your Honor, &c., Council will be pleased to order a further dividend of your Petitioners' restitution.

422.—*Special Expenditure of Government in* 1757.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 20.]

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
Palankeens	7,287	10	0			
Budgerows and Boats	7,591	14	9			
State Budgerow	4,320	0	0			
Bottleconnah Boat	500	0	0			
Foreign Books				110	13	9
Law Books				242	13	3
Books of Divinity				1,757	2	3
Diving Engine				320	0	0
Tents and Cannauts				5,546	6	3
Charges, Law Suits.						
Against Davis, Halsey and Cruttenden				1,018	5	3
Humphreys Cole				5,665	6	6
Bartholomew Clarke				71	5	6
Wadham Brooke				12,047	14	0
Jonathan Ranson				4,020	8	0
				22,823	7	3
Plate, particulars as by Journal, April 1755				13,041	9	3
Cook room necessaries				428	9	0
Cattle				200	0	0
Expedition against the Ostenders				3,33,101	9	0
Sir Francis Russel, Bart.				28,215	0	0

* From April 1755 to June 1756, there was a chasm in the accounts, as the books were destroyed by Suraja Dowla. A few items of expenditure were ascertained; among them were the following.

423.—*Value of Calcutta Buildings in January* 1757.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 8.]

	Co.'s Rs.
The old Fort and its interior building which we estimated to have been worth in January 1757	1,20,000
The Hospital, Ditto	12,000
The Stables, Ditto	4,000
The Gaol, Ditto	7,000
Saltpetre Godowns, Ditto	7,000
Cutcherry, Ditto	1,500
Cutwal Prison, Ditto	1,000
Bridges, two, Ditto	2,000
Chintz Printers' Houses, Ditto...	6,000
Elephant Ground, Ditto	1,500
	1,62,000
Magazine	6,925
Dock Head, Slip and Buildings	7,000
Cradle for careening ships destroyed.	
Moorings, none.	
New Consultation Room destroyed (cost 34,000)	
New Cottah Godowns (cost 29,000)	25,000
New works, properly a Redoubt at Bag bazar (cost 21,000) ...	21,099

424.—*Armenians' petition.—An Armenian woman brought as a slave from the Persian Gulph.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 22.]

To the Hon'ble Robert Clive Esq., *President and Governor, &c., Council of Fort William.*

The humble Petition of the Armenian inhabitants

Showeth,—That some little time after Captain Lang's arrival here, your petitioners were informed of his bringing an Armenian woman passenger with him from the

* Made by Brohier, Engineer of the Fort, A. Scott, Master Attendant, B. Plaisteed, Surveyor.

Gulph of Persia, and upon which information your petitioners waited on the said Lang and requested that he would deliver them the said woman, and whatever trouble or expense he was at in bringing of her here, that they would, in her behalf, repay him with thanks; whereupon the said Captain Lang acquainted your petitioners that he had lent her three hundred rupees, and produced a receipt for that sum, which your petitioners cannot for certain tell whether the same was granted for ready money, or that it was given in lieu of her passage; neither were your petitioners allowed to see or speak to her; notwithstanding all which, your petitioners not doubting otherwise but that the said sum of three hundred rupees was actually lent her by the said Captain Lang, your petitioners offered to pay him 600 rupees, together with her passage, &c., the said Lang demanding of your petitioners 800 rupees, as aforesaid, and during their discussion your petitioners were informed the said Lang had sold her, and which your petitioners made bold to wait and acquaint your Honor &c., of the affair verbally, and your Honor &c., was pleased thereon to direct John Cooke Esquire, to enter into and settle the same between your petitioners and the said Lang; and when the said parties met before the said Mr. John Cooke, who, upon examining the affair, the said Lang produced a written paper in Armenian, the purport whereof does not in the least make mention that the said woman was sold to him, therefore consequently he was not authorized to sell her. The said Mr. Cooke then ordered your petitioners to go along with the said Mr. Lang, and that he would deliver the said woman upon your petitioners adjusting with him. Your petitioners accordingly went and agreed to pay him 642 rupees, to which he, the said Lang, was content and promised your petitioners he would deliver the said woman to them that day, and so put your petitioners off for four days together without delivering the said woman, when your petitioners again waited and acquainted the said Mr. Cooke of the same, he then directed your petitioners to address your Honor, &c., a second time.

Your petitioners here beg leave to observe to your Honor &c. that never such an instance was known since the settlement of this place by the English, nor the Armenian nation so much disgraced by having either of their males or females made slaves, nor that the selling of Christian people was allowable or practised by the English nation; your petitioners therefore humbly pray the assistance of your Honor &c. by ordering the said woman to be released; your petitioners being ready and willing to make any retaliation to the said Lang for her passage or for any monies lent, as your Honor &c., shall be pleased to order and direct.

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* At this time Government was investigating a charge made against a Lieutenant Perry of unlawfully buying an Armenian girl and taking her to Patna.

425.—*Jugget Set's entertainment.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1.]

The Honorable Company ... ... *Dr.*

September.—For four days' expenses for Jugget Sett as undermentioned :—

To House furnished *viz.*—					
30 pieces of Cossas at Rs. 5-8 per piece Arcot Rs.			155 0 0		
45 ditto of Cuttnee ... ... „			157 8 0		
Red Bunting Silk, Tape and Thread for purdahs „			96 12 0		
Gunneys for the Bed ... ... „			16 10 0		
20 pairs of Mats ... ... „			37 0 0		
Taylors' work on Sundries ... ... „			66 6 6		
				529	4 6
To his diet for 4 days at Rs. 400 per day ...			1,600 0 0		
To presents given, &c.—					
6 Pieces of flowered Velvet at Rs. 261-9-6 per piece ...	1,570	8 0			
1 otter box set with diamonds, Sicca Rs. 3,000	3,222	3 6			
1 piece of China Brocade 215 0 0					
2 ditto ditto brought by Captain Brohier 552 0 0					
	767	0 0			
4 pieces of Broad Cloth at Rs. 70 per piece	280	0 0			
4 pairs of side Lanthorns at Rs. 120 per pair	480	0 0			
8 Twizer Cases at Rs. 55 each ...	440	0 0			
			6,759 5 6		
				8,359	5 6
To money given to his servants, *viz.*—					
Jemadars, Chobdars, Peons, attending Servants, Dammar boys and bearers, &c., ...				500	0 0

To Dolchand's expense—				
To his diet	150 0 0	150 0 0		
To presents given—				
2 pieces of flowered Velvet ...	457 3 0			
1 ditto of China Brocade ...	215 0 0			
2 ditto of Broad cloth, ...	100 0 0			
		772 3 0		
				922 3 0
To Rattoonchund, his diet		150 0 0		
To presents—				
2 pieces of flowered Velvet ...	532 7 0			
1 ditto of Broad cloth ...	50 0 0			
Buxis to the Servants ...	50 0 0			
		782 7 0		
				932 7 0
To Birjo Mohun Shaw, his diet		100 0 0		
To present—a piece of flowered Velvet		284 14 0		
				384 14 0
To Moonsubdar, his diet		100 0 0		
To presents—				
2 pieces of Broad cloth ...	140 0 0			
Ready money given Sunt Rs. 3,000	3,597 3 6			
		3,737 3 6		
				3,837 3 6
To paid Mr. Hackett as per Bill ...	Co.'s Rs.	2,001 6 0		
				1,853 2 0
To Broad cloth, half piece for putting over the Elephant		35 0 0		
To Buxis to the people that brought present of Fruits, Sunt Rs. 20		20 10 0		
				55 10 0
		Arcot Rupees ...		17,374 1 6

CALCUTTA,
6th October, 1759.

Errors Excepted,
(Signed) ROBERT CLIVE.

426.—*Nabob's Entertainment.*

The Honorable Company ... ... *Dr.*

Expenses made for Nabob, his coming down to Calcutta and other extraordinary charges as undermentioned, *viz.* :—

House Furnished—					
To 70 pieces of Cuttnees Purdah for window at 45 Rs. per corge	Arcot Rs.	157	8	0	
2 pieces of Taffuty		14	8	0	
46½ yards of velvet at 6-8 per yard		302	4	0	
Gold thread Sicca wt. 68-6-0 at 2-15 per Sa. wt. ...		200	13	6	
12 seers of Silk Cotton for Bed and Pillows		1	12	0	
5 „ Cotton		2	8	0	
Silk, Thread and Tape, &c., Laceman's work... ...		66	8	0	
Taylors' work, &c.		68	0	0	
		810	7	6	
Batta 8 per cent.		64	13	6	
					875 5 0
To 2 pairs of Lustres	Arcot Rs.	2,100	0	0	2,268 0 0
To 3 hanging Lustres as per Mr. Holwell's Bill No. 1	Sunt Rs.	3,500	0	0	3,885 0 0
To Mr. Scrofton, as per Bill No. 2, *viz.* :—					
4 pair Jancardors at Rs. 400 per pair		1,600	0	0	
3 dozen Lamp Glasses, 3 dozen Saucers, 1 dozen Mugs, 1 dozen Mug Saucers, 3 dozen Mugs with Covers and Saucers		168	0	0	
	Sunt Rs.	1,768	0	0	
Batta 11 per cent.		194	7	9	
					1,962 7 9
To a pair of square Lanthorns	Arcot Rs.	200	0	0	
To a „ round „	„ ...	70	0	0	
		270	0	0	291 9 6
To 9 large Looking Glasses at 57-8 each		517	8	0	
3 middling „ at 37-8 „		112	8	0	
10 Looking Glasses		625	0	0	
		1,255	0	0	
Batta 8 per cent.		100	6	3	
					1,355 6 3

To 4 pairs of Brass Candlesticks			5	11	0			
To 3 maunds of Candles at 5-2-8 per maund ...			157	8	0			
To victuals to the Banians, Peons, Carpenters and Cooleys			35	0	0			
						198	3	0
To Nabob's diet			657	6	0			
To fruits of sorts, &c.			96	5	0			
			753	11	0			
Batta 8 per cent.			60	4	6			
						813	15	6
To 101 Gold Mohurs gave to Nabob at Rs. 15 each Arcot Rs.			1,515	0	0			
						1,636	3	3
To Omed Roy's diet			300	0	0			
Shawket Sing's „			300	0	0			
Canny Ram's „			250	0	0			
Monnea Ram's „			250	0	0			
Golam Hossein's „ *			250	0	0			
Hurcarra's „			100	0	0			
			1,400	0	0			
Batta 8 per cent.			112	0	0			
						1,512	0	0
To Buxis to the following people, *viz.*:—								
Nabob's servants	Sunt Rs.		2,000	0	0			
Omed Roy's servants			200	0	0			
Canny Ram, gave him			5,000	0	0			
„ „ his servants...			50	0	0			
Monnea Ram gave him			5,000	0	0			
„ „ his servants...			50	0	0			
Golam Hossein's servants			100	0	0			
Shawket Sing's „			200	0	0			
Hurcarrah, gave him			2,000	0	0			
„ his servants			300	0	0			
			14,900	0	0			
Batta 8 per cent.			1,639	0	0			
						16,539	0	0
To paid Captain Forrester, as per Bill No 3, *viz.*:—								
To 3 Waters, 1 Beetle Box and Rose-water Bottle in silver ornamented with Lazuli			2,186	0	0			
To 1 ditto ditto			1,404	0	0			
To 1 Rose-water Bottle and Stand			164	0	0			
Wax-work—								
To a Turkish Lady			222	0	0			
To a Boy and Girl			108	0	0			
		...	4,144	0	0			

* Is this the celebrated author of the *Seir Mutakherin*, a work which rivals in detail Rousseau's Confessions or Sully's Memoirs?

To the Virgin Mary	33 0 0			
To 12 standing Venusses to pull off behind	840 0 0			
To a lying ditto	84 0 0			
To 6 kissing figures	72 0 0			
To 8 ladies under glasses	160 0 0			
To Joseph and Mary	33 0 0			
To a Roman charity	56 0 0			
To a curious cut Lustre containing 32 snake arms and fans, &c.	4,608 0 0			
To 1 ditto ditto ...	4,608 0 0			
To a pair of plate glasses, silver, 55 inches by 33½ inches...	1,479 0 0			
To 1 ditto ditto 47½ „ 34½ „ ...	568 0 0			
To 1 ditto ditto 45½ „ 34 „ ...	426 0 0			
To 1 double barrel Gun	180 0 0			
To 1 silver-mounted Gun with a gold lock-hole ...	124 0 0			
To a pair of double barrel Pistols	210 0 0			
To 2 ladies richly drest in silver, playing two tunes, &c. ...	2,080 0 0			
			19,709	0 0
To paid George Wilson as per Bill No. 4 for 2 large yellow Lustres ... ... Arcot Rs.	6,500 0 0		7,020	0 0
To paid Mr. Culling Smith as per Bill No. 5 for a mahogany case mounted with silver, &c.			800	0 0
To a pair of stand round looking glass	300 0 0		324	0 0
To 18 pieces of flowered velvet 837 yards at 5-10 each ...	4,708 2 0			
Batta 8 per cent. ...	376 10 3			
			5,084	12 0
To present to Omed Roy, *viz.*:—				
1 Culgah	1,200 0 0			
1 Surpage	600 0 0			
1 Diamond Ring	2,500 0 0			
1 Kellot	250 0 0			
	4,550 0 0			
Batta 8 per cent. ...	364 0 0			
			4,914	0 0
To country canvas 200 pieces at 6 Rs. per piece ...	1,200 0 0			
Batta 8 per cent. ...	96 0 0			
	1,296 0 0			
To 20 Europe cables, weight 175 maunds 28 seers at 6 per maund	1,054 3 3			
To 30 coils of Coir Cable, weight 195 maunds 25 seers at 8 per maund	1,543 0 0			
To 50 pair of Bulger hides at 13 per pair	702 0 0			
			4,595	3 3

To Spices, &c. :—								
Cloves	20 seers at 16 per seer			320	0	0		
Mace	20 „ at 12 „			240	0	0		
Nutmegs	20 „ at 6 „			120	0	0		
Pepper	80 „ at 25 per maund			50	0	0		
Cinnamon	10 „ at 5 per seer			50	0	0		
				780	0	0		
To 5 maunds of Almonds at 25 per maund				125	0	0		
To 2 „ of Raisins at 60 „				120	0	0		
To 5 seers of „ at 50 per seer				277	8	0		
							1302	8	0
To what gave to Golam Hossein, *viz.* :—								
4 pieces of Europe canvas at 35 per piece at Rs. 140 is				151	3	3		
1 Bale of Cotton, 5 maunds 36 seers at 17-4 per maund				101	12	9		
China-ware, &c. at Rs. 14-6 is				120	8	3		
							376	8	0
To paid Mr. Hackett as per Bill for entertainment at the Theatre ... ... Arcot Rs.				376	6	9	406	8	6
To Musicians for attending at Court House Ball as per Bill ... ... Arcot Rs.				50	0	0	54	0	0
To paid the Banians, Butler and Steward as per Account Partn. at Court House amounting to Current Rs. ...							1,702	15	0
To Boxes, Rope and Nails, &c., and Packerman on sundries				97	7	0			
To Coolies for sundries, &c.				59	6	0			
To Buxis to the people that brought presents, &c. ...				46	0	0			
To 61 Boat-hire for Nabob going up the river ...				1406	4	0			
To Peons that attend on things				17	8	0			
To Sircars, Peons and Mosalchies, their wages, &c. ...				97	0	0			
				1,723	9	0			
Batta at 8 per cent ...				138	2	0			
				1,861	11	0			
To paid Louis Vaneet's Bill for sounding the Trumpets, Horns and Kettle Drums at the entertainments ... ... Arcot Rs.				54	0	0			
							1,915	11	0
Current Rupees ...							79,542	4	6*

CALCUTTA,
30*th October* 1759.

Errors Excepted,

(Signed) ROBERT CLIVE.

* The total costs exceeded Rs. 50,000; among the items were 15 pair brass candlesticks Rs. 22½; a China Ketysal Rs. 3½; liquors expended at Court House Rs. 769; purchasing a Coffre boy Rs. 500; present to the people who brought present Rs. 310; 15 chests of rose water Rs. 397; sent to Nawab, 70 mds. wax candles 8,430; 60 lbs. of Masulipatam Cheroots Rs. 500, 2 mds. of Vinegar Rs. 80, 5 mds. of Coffee Rs. 312.

427.—*The Dutch reconciled.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 28.]

Received a letter from the Director and Council of Hooghly, dated the 27th, acquainting us that as they have wished nothing more ardently than to see the differences settled and friendship revived between the two Nations, for nothing could be more agreeable to them than to receive our letter of the 26th tending to that effect. That in order to restore the public peace in these provinces, they shall contribute all in their power, and have therefore appointed two of their Council as Commissaries to wait upon us with proper instructions and power to bring about a reconciliation, and request we will appoint a time for their reception.*

428.—*Proceedings of Mr. Burdett against the Dutch.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 8.]

We this day received a letter from Mr. John Burdett at Balasore, dated the 1st instant, advising of his having put peons on the Dutch Factory and having secured the persons of two Dutchmen residing there, they having made several attempts to seduce our European Soldiers who came from Ganjam, and desiring our orders what to do with them and their Factory. Agreed we write to Mr. Burdett and inform him that we are much surprised at the manner of his proceeding against the Dutch, and that we direct he, immediately on the receipt of our letter, releases the Dutch gentlemen and takes off the peon from their Factory; and further, that he apologizes to them for his conduct on this occasion, and acquaints them that what he has done has been from a misunderstanding of our orders and is totally disapproved by us.

429.—*Warren Hastings' Assistant.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 17.]

Mr. Hastings requiring an Assistant under him at Moraudbaag, and Mr. John Hackett, who came out a Cadet last season, promising to

* The English Government was determined not to let the Dutch "play at soldiers" nor to continue submitting to "the unparalleled indignities." Their defeat of the Dutch at this time humbled their pride and made them more desirous of an accommodation. They pledged themselves to the Nawab not to keep more than 125 European Soldiers in the country, and not to erect any new fortifications.

apply himself to the study of the Moor's language and to qualify himself for the business to be done there—Agreed he be permitted to reside at Moraudbaag under Mr. Hastings.*

430.—*Chaplains' allowances, £230 annually.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 23, PARA. 23.]

In lieu of the complicated allowances which our chaplains have had from custom out of our cash and from the Buxey, and to reduce the same to plain and certain appointments, each of our said chaplains, and all others from henceforward who may succeed them, are to be paid out of our cash, at the usual time of paying the salaries of the Company's Covenanted Servants, after the following rates, *viz.*:—

Salary, as usual, after the yearly rate of ...	£	50	0	0
Gratuity as usual...	,,	50	0	0
For house-rent, if no apartment can be allotted, then the usual yearly rate of	,,	30	0	0
And in lieu of the allowances in the Buxey's accounts for diet, servants' wages, and all the various articles which have crept in by custom and connivance, the annual sum only of ...	,,	100	0	0
	£	230	0	0

The said yearly sum of £230 sterling is to be paid each of our chaplains at the usual times of payment, and you are hereby positively ordered to make them no other allowances as from the Company in any shape or on any pretence whatever. Both Mr. Moore and Mr. Cape have had this matter very clearly explained to them previous to their being chosen, which it is right to mention, that you may be apprised of its being a mutual agreement.

431.—*Bricklayers to be sent to Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JANUARY 23, PARA. 27.]

Mr. Brohier having represented to us by his letter, under date of the 10th January, the great want of able bricklayers for the better

* Warren Hastings was at this time allowed 20 rupees a month for reading prayers; he was at the same time Chief of the Kasimbazar Factory and Resident at the Nawab's Court.

carrying on the works at Fort William, we have accordingly entertained Thos. Braiding and J. Daw as Master Bricklayers on the Bengal Establishment, at the salary of 90 pounds sterling a year, each to commence on their arrival, to be under the immediate direction of the engineer only; also Charles Bonwick, apprentice to Thos. Braiding, for the remaining term of his apprenticeship (which will expire the 21st March 1761) at the yearly salary of £60, to be paid to his said master, to commence likewise on his arrival in Bengal; and at the expiration of his said apprenticeship to be employed at such salary, to be paid to himself, as you shall think he deserves if he chooses to remain in India.

432.—*Saluting ships by shouting to save powder.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 19.]

In order to prevent a needless expense of powder on board the ships in the Company's service, we have made some new regulations by which the Commanders are allowed to make no other salutes with guns than those therein mentioned, upon all other occasions they are to salute with cheers, according to their own discretion and the present rules of the Navy. We now transmit, for your information, a printed copy of the said regulations.

433.—*Omichund's contracts very costly.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 35.]

In the 34th paragraph of your letter of the 10th of January, you inform us of your agreement with Omichund for 58,000 maunds of saltpetre at the rate of six Arcot rupees the factory maund, and in the 61st paragraph of the same letter you say Mr. Pearkes had contracted at Patna for 51,000 maunds at Rs. 2-14 sicca per factory maund. This is a very striking circumstance, especially when it is considered that by that happy resolution you had it in your power to command the market, and to purchase all or any quantities of saltpetre wanted without the intervention of the black people.

434.—*Covenanted Servants not to hold any land.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 50.]

You did very right in forbidding Europeans holding the farms of any lands, towns, or villages within the Company's boundaries, nor do we

much approve of it within our own jurisdiction; however, as it may sometimes possibly prove of public advantage to have monied men not in our service to be competitors, we do not lay you under restrictions to such persons, but we absolutely and positively forbid covenanted servants holding any lands, towns or villages, directly or indirectly, within or without our jurisdiction, or be interested in any contracts with the Company, for such shall assuredly forfeit our services, our reason for this restraint must be so obvious, that an explanation must be unnecessary. We are further to remark that the late troubles at Tellicherry, which proved almost fatal to that settlement, took rise from a dispute with our linguist and the Prince of that Country, relative to lands he, the linguist, held at Mount Dilly; therefore, should any of the natives or inhabitants who hold posts in Calcutta, or under our protection, possess territories within our limits, they are, in all difficulties which may arise with respect to such property, to settle them as Indians, but under no sanction as subjects to the Company, for it is our positive direction that the affairs of such persons shall not embarrass or involve ours.

435.—*The Company's Capital not to be sunk in stone walls.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 55.]

We canot avoid remarking that you seem so thoroughly possessed with military ideas as to forget your employers are merchants, and trade their principal object, and were we to adopt your several plans for fortifying, half our capital would be buried in stone-walls.*

436.—*Covenants and Securities.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARAS. 64 & 65.]

As any of our covenanted servants attain the age of twenty-one years, they are to execute fresh covenants, which being done they are to be returned to us properly witnessed, for which purpose we have

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* The Court disallowed at this time the having a fort at Berhampur to overawe the Nawab, as it considered it would rather irritate; besides being too far from Calcutta. The Court decided at this time that "exclusive of the artillery, the force in Bengal should consist of 300 Europeans, and no more." They complain that in Bengal there were 13 Captains to 670 Europeans, "a heavy expense."

already sent and shall continue to supply you with blank ones. As this is to be a standing and invariable rule, we shall expect that you will take care that it is strictly complied with.

When a Writer advances to the station of a Factor, an additional security is required to be given for the faithful discharge of this duty; and further security is to be given as he advances in station, of which every servant must be apprised from time to time, that he may write to his friends in England to give such security accordingly; this also must be a standing rule.

437.—*Gifts to the Army wrong and unauthorised.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 78.]

The advancing large sums to the Navy and Army is a measure that we can by no means approve, and you should have confined your reply to these gentlemen to this single point, that you had not authority to use the Company's money but for their own service; this honest and fair answer must have satisfied any reasonable man; it was certainly a fact, for your lending our money was clearly an unwarrantable liberty; but we are ashamed to see how superficially this important point was discussed, no estimates framed of future demands for your investments, currency of business, extensive sums for fortifying Calcutta garrison, and incidental charges, so that in a little more than a month it was found that our treasury was drained, and you under the necessity of borrowing; to this we must add that the methods you look to for pacifying the officers of the Navy by giving them jewels and cloth, and thereby making the Company liable to the loss that we think must necessarily arise thereon, was a further instance of your disregard to the Company's interest, and it is highly disapproved of by us.*

438.—*Sunnud of Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 12.]

A translation of the Sunnud for the free tenure of the town of Calcutta, &c., to the Hon'ble East India Company, given under the seal of the Nabob Dowla Allawa Mir Mahmud Sadoc, Khan Bahaddoor Assud Jung Dewan of the Subah of Bengal.

To the Mutsuddies for affairs for the time being and to come, and Zemindars, and Chowdries and Talookdars and Canoongoes of the Mouzah of Govindpoor, &c., in the districts of the Pergunnah of Calcutta, belonging to the Paradise of Nations

* This refers to the donation in the shape of prize money made to the Army and Navy after the recapture of Calcutta.

the Subah of Bengala; be it known that, in consequence of the Ferd Sawal signed by the Glory of the Nobility and Administration, Shooja-ul-Mulk Hossein-o-dowla, Mir Mahomed Jaffir Khan Bahadoor Mohabut Jung, Nazim of the Subah, and the Ferd Huckeekut and Muchilca signed conformably thereto, the forms of which are herein fully set forth, the rents of the aforesaid Mouzas, &c., which adjoin to the factory of the noblest of merchants, the English Company, amounting to eight thousand eight hundred and thirty-six rupees and something more, from the 1st of Rubbee Usanee 5 Tun according to the endorsement are forgiven to the end that they provide for the defence of their factory and the safeguard of the seaports herewith. It is their (the Mutsuddies, &c.) duty to desist from all claims for the rents, nor in any way nor by any means oppress or disturb them. In this particular be they punctual. Dated as above.

Let the endorsement be wrote.*

Particulars of the endorsement—

In consequence of the Ferd Sawal signed by the Glory of the Nobility and Administration, Shujah-ul-Mulk Hossein-o-dowla Mir Mahomed Jaffir Khan Bahadoor Mohabut Jung, Nazim of the Subah, and the Ferd Huckeekut Muchilca, signed conformably thereto, the forms of which are herein fully set forth, the rents of the Mouza of Govindpoor, &c., in the districts of the Pergunna of Calcutta, &c., belonging to the Paradise of Nations, the Subah of Bengala, and dependent on Khalsa Shereefa, and the jagheer of the Sircar which adjoin to the Factory of the noblest of Merchants, the English Company, amounting to eight thousand eight hundred and thirty-six rupees and some thing more, from the latter† season of Oodaul in the year (1164 year) eleven hundred and sixty-four of the Bengal era, are forgiven the noblest of Merchants aforesaid

Mouzas and Mehals 22½.

Mouzas Mehals 20½.

2 Markets.

amount according to the Ferd signed by the Canoongoes of the Subah.

Form of the sign manual—Be the Sunnud granted. Form of the Ferd Sawal. The noblest of Merchants, the English Company, represent that the factory for carrying on their trade in the Pergunnah of Calcutta lying near the sea and being liable to continual alarms and irruptions from the enemy, for their defence they have made a trench of water round their factory and left an esplanade on all sides at the distance of a cannon shot, and that the Mouza of Govindpoor, &c., in the district of the Pergunnah of Calcutta, &c., of the Sircar Sautgaum, belonging to the Paradise of Nations, the Subah of Bengala, dependant on the Khalsa Shereefa and Jagheer of the Sircar adjoining thereto; they request that a Sunnud exempting them from the payment of the rents thereof be granted them. In this particular what are your commands?

Mouzas and Mehals 22½.

Mouzas 20½.

Mehals (2 markets) 2.‡

* This is wrote by the Roy-royan.

† In the original Fesset Khrug.

‡ The Company further pledged themselves not to allow of any robbery, house-breaking or drunkenness within their bounds.

439.—*Shipping Returns of Calcutta for three months.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 2.]

An account of pass money due to the Hon'ble Company on the several ships and vessels which have sailed out of this port betwixt the 1st day of January 1759 and this 30th April, 1759.*

	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
SHIP.—Muxadabad—burthen 300 tons	300	0	0			
Bankshall duty	10	0	0			
Injellee Anchorage	3	0	0			
				313	0	0
SHIP.—Doddalay—150 tons	150	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				163	0	0
SHIP.—Welcome—100 tons	100	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				113	0	0
SNOW.—Nancy—60 tons	60	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				73	0	0
SNOW.—Alla Dowlet—100 tons	100	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				113	0	0
SLOOP.—George—30 tons	30	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				43	0	0
BONETTA.—Ketch—95 tons	95	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				108	0	0
SNOW.—Bettey—100 tons	100	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				113	0	0
SHIP.—Fort William—200 tons	200	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				213	0	0
SNOW.—Carolina—80 tons	80	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				93	0	0
SLOOP.—Huzzeeromull—20 tons	20	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				33	0	0
SHIP.—Drake—280 tons	280	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				293	0	0
SNOW.—Fanny—80 tons	80	0	0			
Bankshall duty and anchorage	13	0	0			
				93	0	0
Current Rs. ...				1,764	0	0

* From the 1st of May 1759 to 30th April 1760 there sailed out of Calcutta 30 Sloops and Vessels; (the largest numbers were in January and March), yielding Rs. 3,964 in pass money or one rupee a ton.

440.—*Farmers' proposal for 24-Pergunnahs.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 4.]

We offer the Hon'ble Company over and above what was collected in last year (or made utpawna) clear of all charges, &c., and brought to the credit of Company's cash, one hundred and ten thousand and one rupees (1,10,001), should your honor, &c., think that we shall impose or press the ryots with any unjust taxes, &c., or ruin the country, &c. To this we propose that, with the same Har Hadisse that the Company had, we shall have and collect the proper revenue, and to the contrary should any body prove that we have increased any tax or sum upon the ryots more than common, we should forfeit double the sum; and we do bind ourselves to deliver at the end of the three years of our farm the pergunnahs, &c., in the same condition and situation as we received.

Rogonut Metre.	Monick Dutt.
Suckdeo Mullick.	Boyragy Dutt.
Mohun Persaud.	Horrykissen Surma.
Gocul Sain.	Monohur Surma.
Ramsantose Doss.	Jugut Oyre.
Kerperam Metre.	Durgaram Metre.

441.—*Holwell replied to the above application in the following address to Members of Council.*

[ENTERED IN PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 11.]

The step we already determined on of divesting the farmer of all power in the royalties and judicial authorities of the pergunnahs, bids fair for the security of the Company's honor, as these articles heretofore being also farmed became the source of heavy cruelties and oppressions on the tenants; but still there seems to be something wanting to give us a perfect security in this particular, and that is to take the utmost care in our power that the whole body of the lands do not, by any juncta or private confederacy, fall into the hands of people with whom we would not trust any part of our own fortunes or confidence; I am urged to this precaution from the proposal laid before you on the 4th instant, by six or seven conspicuous Natives settlement of an advance of Rs. 1,10,001 on the whole lands. With respect to their proposal I will only add an offer of Rs. 10,000 more per annum on their terms, not that I wish myself or any one else in possession of them on terms so vague and artful.

That keeping the lands in our own hands will never lead us to a knowledge of their real value is now (to me) proved beyond contradiction. Some of those who signed the proposal of the 4th are well conversant in the nature of their undertaking, and better judges still (as I am informed) are concerned, though as yet they act behind the curtain, and to me it is inconceivable that these Eastern Machivals in finesse would offer such an annual advance without a moral certainty of adequate gain. In this position, I am still more confirmed by the advance offered from other quarters on distinct and garbled parts of the pergunnahs, which in fact exceeds the others.

If we have been hitherto kept so far from a knowledge of the real value of these lands after 16 months' possession, what are we to expect when, from the course of the service, they are no longer under the conduct of the present Collector, whose knowledge in this branch must be greatly superior to any gentleman that succeeds him, and whose vigilance in the execution of this trust cannot be exceeded from the experience I have had in infinitely less though similar objects. It is now impossible for any one gentleman, with the most extensive talents and integrity, to superintend this revenue in such manner as to prevent the Company being injured; his attention cannot be everywhere, confidence must be placed in a multitude, and it happens most unluckily that this confidence centres from necessity in a race of people who, from their infancy, are utter strangers to the very idea of common faith or honesty.

The other plan of disposing of the lands to the multitude of the people who have offered an advance on particular parts of each pergunnah, I have strong and equal objections to. I am sensible these objections should have been laid before you sooner, and would, had I thought myself sooner master of the subject. We know not what or who these people are. I foresee a very great risque of deficiencies in the rents, as well as much confusion and needless expense entailed on this expedient, and ourselves removed as far as ever from gaining a knowledge of the real value of this new and important acquisition. On the whole, therefore, I am of opinion that there is no effectual method to arrive at this knowledge, and make the lands yield every advantage to our hon'ble employers, but by putting them up to public auction in single pergunnahs under the restrictions already published. People of substance will be the only bidders for an entire pergunnah, the bad and unprofitable parts will go with the good and valuable, and the risque of deficiencies in the rents be guarded against; the expenses of collecting will in a manner be reduced to nothing, and this branch of the service be rendered less complicate and intricate by our having 25 purchasers only to account with us, in place of 5 or 600.

On this the present Farmers or ancient Izardars representing the hereditary ryots of the different 24-Pergunnahs sent in the following petition.

That the principal part of your petitioners are the ancient farmers of the Company's new acquired lands, and have, with great labour and care, as well as at a great expense, cleared the same from jungles, removing the savage inhabitants of the woods, in order to people the lands with human species, and by an indefatigable, unwearied industry of a period of years, have had the happiness to see their labours rewarded and the lands flourish; for the still greater encouraging and promoting of which, their ancestors removed themselves and families and planted themselves in the heart of their new farmed lands, where they built their habitation, and by their presence and gentle treatment had the pleasure

to see their tenants daily increase, who they looked upon and treated as part of their family, and who were always ready on the least call to assist on any emergency, by which means all dacoits, thieves, &c., have ever been kept out of these lands; nor would so much of the lands be barren and waste as there is at present, had not a check been put to our industry by the unjust and exorbitant taxes put upon the lands by the zemindars (or rather by the different Nabobs) by which even the flourishing state we had brought the lands to has been declining for some years past, and the rents have constantly been decreasing; when on the joyful news of the Hon'ble Company's being to have possession of them we were again revived with the pleasing hopes that we should see them rise under our care not only to that flourishing state they were in some years ago, but by the mild and just government of our hoped for new masters, we should in a few years have the satisfaction to see every beegah of ground produce its proper harvest to the glory and profit of the Hon'ble Company.

442.—*Abwabs or Zemindary fees.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 28.]

Account profits arising to the Company by the deduction of sundry articles from the annual rent to be paid the Nabob for the new lands, as pointed out by the Hooghly Canoongoes, *viz.* :—

Amount, rents, taxes, &c., paid the Nabob by the former zemindars			4,32,119 3 4
Deduct the following taxes and additions, *viz.* :—			
Showay and Joyguer	67,546 12 31		
Maratoes chout	30,195 10 40		
Cans Nobissey	8,304 4 2		
Nazer Purniah	1,284 6 0		
Nazarana Mocurutley	45,759 0 0		
Bajeeaftey saybundey	707 0 0		
Aboab Phousdarry	10,438 8 0		
Mathoat, Feil Connah, &c.	44,925 0 0	2,09,160 8 73	
Balance agreeable to the Sunnud ...			2,22,958 10 11
The above taxes and additions	2,09,160 8 73		
N. B.—Overcharged by Raja Tillock Chund's Gomastah on the Pergunnah Dalliabussendoy ...	42,946 2 71		
	2,52,106 11 64		

443.—*Farms sold.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 31.]

Farms of the Hon'ble Company's new lands sold by public auction in the Town Hall of Calcutta,* *viz.*:—

Pergunnahs—	Rupees.	*Purchasers*—	Rupees.
Magurah put up at	1,02,000	Radakissen Mullick at	1,26,100
Moragatcha ,, ...	89,000	Mr. Samuel Griffith	1,20,000
Azimabad ,, ...	71,000	Sookdeb Mullick	80,500
Ghurr ,, ...	14,000	Chaund Haldar	17,000
Meddunmull and Ekaburpoor put up at	57,000	J. Z. Holwell, Esq.	72,000
Causpoor put up at	10,000	Mr. Edward Handle	15,700
Hattiagur and Meydah	50,000	J. Z. Holwell, Esq.	51,500
Buridge Hatty and Ektearpore ...	50,000	Condoo Gosaul	70,000
Mamudamypoor put up at ...	300	Ramchurn Nye...	600
Shawpoor ,, ...	11,000	Sappulliram Biswas	13,300
Shawnagore ,, ...	7,000	Ramchurn Nye	10,300
Dokinsagore ,, ...	2,000	Radakissen Mullick	3,800
Balliabussendry ,, ...	53,000	Ramsantose Sircar	70,000
Cacutta, Maunpoor, Poyean and Habdishur put up at	45,000	Radachurn Mullick	81,500
Pichacooley put up at	21,000	Bullaram Biswas and Bobany Churn Tagore	33,400
		Sicca Rupees ...	7,65,700

Errors Excepted,

(Sd.) W. FRANKLAND,
Collector.

444.—*Exportation of Grain prohibited.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 18.]

Agreeable to the orders of last Council, the Sea Custom Master delivers in a report of grain in the Settlement, by which it appearing

* These lands were farmed in separate pergunnahs for three years on the following conditions:—The rents not to be increased on the ryots, nor any rent-paying ryot to be turned out, and no trees to be cut down without leave from the President and Council. The farmer not to interfere in disputes on caste, orders for marriages, licenses for treats, but to superintend his district with such mulhe or land pykes as have been usually allowed for that purpose; not to grant land for tanks or roads, without leave from the President and Council; to collect such rents from the ryots as have been received by the former izaradars or farmers. All banks, roads, bridges, to be kept in good repair at the equal expense of the Hon'ble Company, the farmer and the tenants in thirds. The farmer not to lay any new tax on the tenant without permission of the President and Council. The farmer to pay the amount of his farm by twelve monthly payments.

that there is a prospect of a deficiency for the consumption of the inhabitants.—Ordered the Secretary to give public notice that the exportation of grain is prohibited from this day except to Madras.*

445.—*Danes apply for cannon against the Mahrattas.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 21.]

Letter from the Danish gentlemen at Fredericknagore (Serampore) to Council requests four pieces of cannon, flints and ammunition for their defence against the Mahrattas should they approach near their settlement. Council are sorry it is not in their power to assist them with cannon and military stores as requested; but they judge the Danes have little or nothing to apprehend from the Mahrattas so long as the Company's party under the command of Captain Spears remains in their neighbourhood.†

446.—*Mahrattas in Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 21 AND 25.]

Messrs. Watt and Howitt being returned from Burdwan and Kishnaghur, and reporting to us that the Naugurs and Mahrattas have advanced into those countries and commenced plundering, which has obliged them to retire to Calcutta and will totally put a stop to the collection of the tuncaws in those countries; agreed, that the President do send such a military force to those countries as may be necessary for their defence and security.

Letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbazar, dated the 20th instant, to Council, states that the Mahrattas are in the Burdwan country and that it is their intention to proceed to the city. They desire the recall of the Company's gomastahs at the different aurungs. The Council could not conceive they had any grounds for the apprehensions they entertained of the Mahrattas, as we are convinced from good intelligence that Sher But had not stirred from Midnapore, and that there is not a

* Where there was a scarcity of grain.

† The Mahrattas had been enlisted by the French in the Madras Presidency in their service, which obliged the English to increase the number of Native Cavalry. The Mahrattas took Midnapore at this time, and by plundering in detached parties put a total stop to the current of trade.

Mahratta to the northward of Chundercona or Bhowanipore; but that Cossim Ally Khan will in a few days proceed into the Burdwan country with the Nabob's and some of our forces for their protection.*

447.—*To borrow from Jagat Set.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 10.]

Received a letter from the Chief and Council at Dacca, under date the 5th instant, requesting an immediate supply of money, or permit them to take up money from Juggut Seat's house, otherwise the Company's investment will be at a stand, their treasury being reduced so low that they have not sufficient for their monthly expenses.

448.—*Forced labour for the Fort.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 10.]

The works being much retarded for want of coolies, and the farmers not complying with their agreement.—Ordered the Collector to send peons into the pergunnahs and to bring up by force 8,000, if to be procured.

449.—*The Hospital to be visited monthly by Members of the Board.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 10.]

Agreed that in future the hospital be visited monthly by some of the Members of the Board to see if the sick have proper necessaries and care taken of them, and that they report the same to the Board. Taking into consideration the report of the Committee touching the extravagant expenses of the hospital—Ordered Mr. Smyth, the present

* Shortly after this, the Nawab seized the Rani, and imposed a tuncaw of 10 lacs in Burdwan, while in February, no sooner had Clive left the country, than Sabut invaded Burdwan in different detachments, plundered the country, so that many ryots fled and the collection of revenue was stopped.

visitor, to get all the information of the state and reality of those charges and report the same to the Board, and that the bill for the presses and table be discharged; but that in future the Surgeons be forbid purchasing any necessaries for the hospital without the express permission of the Buxey.*

450.—*Presents to the King of Pegu.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 17.]

The President delivers in a bill for sundries presented Cossim Ally Khan† amounting to Rs. 6,813-3, also one for sundries sent to the King of Pegu, amounting to Rs. 2,247-1-9.—Agreed the same be defrayed out of the cash.

451.—*A fraudulent debtor detained.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 17.]

The Board having information that Mr. Christian Frederic Schroder is about to elope with intent to defraud his creditors.—Agreed, the commanders of the several ships and vessels outward bound be positively forbid receiving him on board on pain of forfeiting the Company's protection.‡

* In the following August, however, Dr. Fullerton sent in a bill of Rs. 4,152-14-6 for necessaries for the hospital which the Buxey was ordered to pay. It was found at this time that the bedding and linen were furnished by Mr. Grey's Banian without any particular account taken of them by the Steward of the Hospital; they were flimsy and soon went to decay; while the Surgeon's mates lived on the ground floor in an unboarded room.

† Among these were an onyx toilet clock gold set with precious stones Rs. 4,320; 1 spying glass Rs. 22; 1 pair of large looking glasses Rs. 162; presents to attendants Rs. 440. The king of Pegu got 20 brass barrelled muskets Rs. 324; 50 muskets, Rs. 432; and 100 pistols Rs. 540.

‡ There was until lately a law in St. Petersburgh, by which every one leaving Russia had to advertise their intention three times in the newspapers, in order that creditors if any, should receive due notice.

452.—*Servants' wages fixed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 20.]

Fixes the wages of servants as follows: *

Chobdars' wages to be	...	...	4 Rs.	per month.
Female servants ...	...	...	3 „	„
Shaving and wig barbers	...	...	1 „	„
Jemadars	...	...	5 „	„
Coachman	...	...	4 „	„
Doorias	...	...	2 „	„

adds, that whoever gives higher wages than limited in the report, be not entitled to any redress from the court of zemindary.

453.—*Wages of Tailors, Washermen, and Barbers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 27.]

We now take into consideration the relief of the menial servants in this Settlement, respecting the exorbitant price of labor exacted from them by tailors, washermen and barbers, which appearing in near a quadruple portion compared with the prices paid in 1755. Agreed that after the first of April next they be regulated as follows, *viz.*:—

No tailor to demand for making 1 jamma more than 3 annas.
1 do. with a border 7 annas.
1 aungerkhan 2 annas.
1 pair of drawers 7 pun of cowries.
No washerman ... ... 1 corge of pieces 7 pun of cowries.

No barber for shaving a single person more than 7 gundas.

Ordered that the above regulations be annexed to the rate of wages published this day seven-night.

454.—*The Portuguese Church to be given up and one made at the gateway.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 24.]

Taking into consideration the unwholesomeness and dampness of the Church now made use of, as well as the injustice of detaining it from the Portuguese.

* The resolution confirmed the scale sanctioned previously directing that no menial servants, such as khitmutgars, musalchees, grass-cutters, peons, &c., usually employed in the service of the inhabitants, be received as coolies on the new works or admitted as sepoys.

Ordered the Surveyor to examine the remains of the gateway in the Old Fort, and report to us what it will cost to put it in tolerable repair and make it fit for a Chapel, till such time as the Chapel designed to be built in the New Fort be erected.*

455.—*Prices of rice, lac, and iron at a sale.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 20.]

Account sale of sundry goods confiscated to the Hon'ble Company at the Sea Custom House.

	Bags.	Fy. mds.	Seers.	Chs.	Purchased by	Rs.	A.	P.
Fine Rice ...	21	40	10	0	Fyzo Consumah at 1-15 per maund	77	15	6
Coarse Rice ...	18	98	29	0	Francis DeCosta at 1-10 per maund	160	7	0
Stick Lac ...	4	4	9	0	Doppo Naraine at 5-10 per maund	23	12	6
Dammer ...	12	15	19	0	Annunderam at 2-9 per maund	39	10	6
Lump Lac ...	19	28	26	0	Doppo Narain at 7-2 per maund	204	2	0
Lothwood ...	10	16	38	0	Kobolram Newgee at 1-9 per maund	26	7	9
Catch ...	15	19	25	0	Goeul Sain at 8-4 per maund	161	14	6
	Ps.							
Iron ...	2,545	110	15	8	Kobolram Newgee at 7-5 per maund	806	4	3
Sugar Candy ...	18 pots		...	...	Radachoron Mitter	20	4	0
					Current Rupees ...	1,520	14	0

456.—*Spies at Balasore to watch the Mahrattas.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 27.]

Mr. John Burdett at Balasore requests to be allowed to keep the spies allowed for that Factory whilst the Mahrattas remain in the country, otherwise it will be impossible for him to acquaint us with their motions.

457.—*Deductions for Ryots to be made for the Farmer salso.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 27.]

The Collector represents to the Board that the article relative to the lands termed hazah baad, or the deductions and indulgences granted to the ryots by the established laws of the country for the loss sustained by them arising from inundations or other causes damaging their grain, &c., is now claimed by the farmers and under-farmers, as such hazah baad has been given by them to the ryots.

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* The cost of converting the building over the gate into a Chapel was estimated at Rs. 2,500, it was completed in July, and the Portuguese Church was handed over to Padri Caitano.

The Board, taking the same into consideration and finding that the pergunnahs of Magurah and Azimabad were at the public sale put up with a deduction equal to the loss sustained the last year from these causes, resolved that the farmers of those pergunnahs have no claim on the Company as zemindars of the land, but that the farmers of the other 22 pergunnahs are entitled to this relief.

Ordered, therefore, the Collector to relieve them accordingly, using the strictest circumspection that no allowance be made beyond the real loss sustained.

458.—*Table allowance at Kasimbazar.**

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 7.]

A letter from the gentlemen at Cassimbazar states that they observe the Chief is to be allowed no more than Co.'s Rs. 4,000 per annum to enable him to keep a general table, out of which he is to pay Rs. 30 per month to every servant that should not be at it, which they do not esteem a sum adequate to the considerable expense he must be at in keeping one, if only for five persons. That they do not think the greatest economist can do it at that Factory under Sa. Rs. 7,000, and hardly for that sum, things being extravagantly dear and scarcely procurable at any rate. That should the second or third for any reason choose to diet apart, how are they to support themselves for Co.'s Rs. 30 per month.

459.—*Copper coins to be received at their value.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 14.]

Captain Brohier delivers in a letter to the Board informing us that the coolies and artificers complain that they do not get the real value of the copper money they are paid in at the bazar. That as the coin is to pass as Arcot annas and pice, he requests the Board will order the shroffs and bazar people to receive the copper coin for the value they are paid by the Company at the works. That in the exchange workmen may receive 54 puns of cowries for 16 copper annas, and the same pro-

* The gentlemen at Kasimbazar protested against the Court's order prohibiting gardens; they thought it absolutely necessary to keep a few cows with cart oxen, the latter being wanted and on all occasions.

portion for the lesser coins, which he imagines can be no hardship to the shroffs or bazar as they can always return that money to the Pay Master for rupees.

Ordered his letter to be entered, and that notice be given that the copper coin will be received back into the Treasury without any loss.*

460.—*Coolies in the Fort—Regulations for.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 28.]

That all coolies, &c., employed be divided into hundreds, and a banian appointed to every hundred to take their names. This will effectually prevent more people being paid than are employed all day, as every person who does not answer to his name at the afternoon's muster will be struck off the roll. It appears likewise necessary to have one European appointed to every thousand, consisting either of bricklayers, builders or cooleys, to muster them as a check on the banians, and to see that all the Portuguese and peons do their respective duties, and to report any of them who neglect the business they are entrusted with, that they may be punished or turned away.

That in lieu of the number of duffadars now kept at a great expense, there be appointed only six, who will engage to provide at any time 600 bildars, which are sufficient for 6,000 coolies, allowing 2,000 to be employed in serving the bricklayers with materials; each of these duffadars must have a sircar allowed him to keep his accounts, as he will on that condition engage to be answerable for the coddalys.

That one of the sub-engineers constantly attend the musters, to receive all the returns and to make a general return of the whole, including the daily disposition of all the people on the works.

That all the people be paid daily, and to acquaint them that the least deduction will not be made in the exchange of the copper money into rupees, or which copper money shall be taken according to the value fixed on it at a bazaar set up in the Fort for the convenience of those who choose to reside there, which doubtless will be many who come from a great distance, when sheds are erected for them.

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* The new works in the Fort were greatly retarded by the coolies not receiving the value of their labor in copper coinage, they consequently deserted in numbers.

That any person at the evening muster neglecting to produce his basket or any other thing delivered him to work with in the morning, shall forfeit his day's pay.

That sepoy sentries be placed over all the stores, &c., and one sepoy at every salient angle of the glacis, or in that proportion, all on the land side of the fort, to put a stop to the immense impositions we are now exposed to by having at least one sixth more coolies to pay than have worked all day, as there have been proofs of very considerable numbers coming in only just before evening muster to receive pay, but this indeed will be effectually prevented by taking the name of every person employed as above proposed. These sepoys are not to suffer a single black fellow to come in or go out of the fort between the time of mustering without a pass, and they are to take up any person who is seen carrying away either plank, bamboos, rope, coddalys, baskets or any other kind of stores, implements, &c.

461.—*The Nawab punishing the Dutch.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 12.]

Translate of the Nawab's letter to Mr. Holwell.

Notwithstanding the solemn treaties and engagements in which we have lately entered with the Dutch, and which we on our parts have faithfuliy adhered to and kept, they, without any just cause and contrary to their faith and word, have broke, by carrying on a private correspondence with our known and public enemies, by keeping up a much larger force than we thought proper to allow them by the late treaty, and which they themselves agreed to, and also by repairing the works ordered to be pulled down at their factory of Chinsura, in which place they are now employed in making quantities of powder and many other military preparations, which but too plainly show the wickedness of their designs and intention against my honour, the peace and safety of my kingdom. Being therefore now come to a resolution of punishing the said offenders, who have so long abused my clemency and goodness, I propose sending down a large force to their factory of Chinsura to oblige them by force, since other means will not do, to keep to their promises and oaths, and to agree to the just conditions I

shall impose on them to prevent in time their plots and wicked designs, and to secure the quiet of my country from their evil attempts.*

462.—*Loans not obtainable from the Seats or the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 26.]

The President informs the Board that, agreeable to their order, he has applied to the Seats for a loan of money on the Company's account, whose answer is—"That the Government has made such large drafts upon them lately, it is out of their power to comply with his request." He also informs the Board that, on the low state of the treasury, he wrote to Mr. Hastings to demand the payment of the two lacs lent the Nabob by Mr. Manningham in January 1759, and an advance of fifty thousand siccas per mensem to defray the charges of the Burdwan expedition under Captain Spear with Cossim Ally Khan. In answer to which Mr. Hastings advised him the Nabob was incapable of paying any ready money, but had offered to satisfy those demands by granting a new tuncaw on the Burdwan and Kishnaghur countries.

463.—*Flogging a Native.*†

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 2.]

Mr. Barton laying in wait seized Benautrom Chattogee opposite to the door of Council, and with the assistance of his bearers and two peons tied his hands and feet, swung him upon a bamboo like a hog, carried him to his own house, there with his own hands chawbooked him in the most

* The Dutch on receiving this letter applied to the English to intercede for them with the Nawab, which they agreed to do, provided they paid up the restitution money demanded agreeable to Treaty of Rs. 75,428-10; of this Rs. 5,000 was demanded for the expenses of bringing the military from Patna to watch the Dutch; Rs. 14,400 as a gratuity to the English sailors, hospital charges Rs. 5,700. The Dutch, after long demurring to pay for their own defeat settled the account, and thus obtained the aid of the English to intercede for them with the Nawab.

† Holwell, in the interests of justice and mercy, brought this case forward; the party flogged had given the most valuable information to Government of the frauds committed in the new works of Fort William. Mr. Barton groundlessly suspected him of bringing a charge against his (Captain B.'s) father, through misinformation from another native; and when Holwell denounced him as taking the rod of justice in his own hands, he replied he had only punished a profligate spy, who had aspersed the memory of his father.

cruel manner, almost to the deprivation of life; endeavoured to force beef into his mouth, to the irreparable loss of his Bramin's caste, and all this without giving ear to, or suffering the man to speak in his own defence, or clear up his innocence to him.

464.—*Mr. Brohier under arrest.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 12.]

The President acquaints the Board that having received intelligence of Mr. Brohier's intending privately to quit the Settlement, he has thought proper to put him under arrest till he knows the sentiments of the Board on the occasion, they approve of the President's conduct.*

465.—*Scarcity of grain in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 26.]

The Sea and Land Custom Masters representing the present scarcity of grain of every kind in Calcutta and of the inhabitants being reduced thereby to great distress, they therefore propose the Company's duties be taken off on grain imported till the present scarcity is over.—Ordered that all duties whatever on the importation of grain be struck off till further orders.

466.—*Farmers' demand on ryots.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 26.]

The former farmer, Radakissen Mullick, sends in a statement of the advance he offers to the Company, but refusing to increase the advance or relinquish his demand on the ryots.—Ordered the statement to be entered, and that the farm be sold at public outcry on Monday next the 30th instant.

* Captain Brohier, Engineer of Fort William, being made a prisoner in his own house, demanded a General Court Martial in order to vindicate his character; he offered to pay Rs. 76,000 towards what he considered the defalcation of his servants, and subsequently escaped from Calcutta to Ceylon where he entered the Dutch service. In the following December a number of banyans also were committed for frauds in the Fort to prison in the kutcherry until they paid their kistbundees.

467.—*Batta on Rupees.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 30.]

Mr. Batson lays before the Board his sentiments on the subject of the batta on rupees in the following words:—"The batta established on all old sicca rupees, "that is sicca rupees of a lower date than the current year, is a grievance to the "inhabitants in general, and in the present circumstances falls equally heavy, nay "more so on the Company. It is, as I am informed, peculiar to the provinces under "this Nabob, the same practice not prevailing in other parts of Hindoostan. It is "an artifice of the Government to impose on the people an indirect tax, which ariseth "in the following manner:—The Nabob receives his revenues in siccas of the current year "only, which are accordingly esteemed the only authorized coin, that is to say, the only "coin a person is obliged to receive in payment; and all siccas of a lower date being "esteemed, like the coin of foreign provinces, only a merchandize, are bought and "sold at a certain discount called the batta, which rises and falls like the "price of other goods in the market. This undervaluation of all siccas of a "lower date than the current year being established, the farmer of the Nabob's "Mint and the Shroffs connected with him use various artifices to "maintain it, that they may have an opportunity of buying up such undervalued "rupees which they carry into the Mint and stamp anew; hence arises their profit, "which enables them to give a yearly sum to the Nabob for the farm. Suppose for "instance that on the 23rd of June 6 sun siccas be issued out of the Mint and "become from that day the authorized coin, it is evident that 5 sun siccas are "not worth less intrinsically on the 23rd than on the 22nd of June, therefore if "the farmer of the mint and the shroffs connected with him can buy them on the "23rd at 1, 2 or 3 per cent. batta, or discount from 6 sun siccas, it is manifest they "will gain 1, 2 or 3 per cent., deducting the charges of stamping them anew, "which is very small. This is the practice at Moorshedabad and Patna. Now "the Company not having new stamped the old siccas or siccas of lower dates "received into their Treasury, the only profit they have made by the Mint has "been the duty on bullion and some few Persian rupees coined, which I understand "has been so small a quantity, that I much doubt whether, on a true statement, "the expenses will not be found to have exceeded the profits; and they continue to "lose the batta on all rupees they receive as siccas when they pay them away after "those of a new sun become current. To save this loss to the Company and relieve "the inhabitants from it in some measure, are I think desirable ends, I therefore "take the liberty to propose that all sicca rupees of lower dates than the current "year, that are fit to take a new stamp, be received into the Company's Treasury "at 1 per cent. batta, that is 1 per cent. lower than siccas, and that the inhabitants "be allowed to send such rupees into the Mint to be stamped anew at the same "rate of 1 per cent., the charges of new stamping, if properly managed, will not be "above ½ per cent., and when a large quantity of rupees are sent into the "Mint, I believe it will turn out considerably less. The Company will "therefore gain ½ per cent. on all of such rupees sent into the Mint or received into "the Treasury, provided they stamp them anew; this will in a great measure

"defray the expenses of the Mint, and I judge our Hon'ble Masters will think it "a duty sufficiently high since it is a yearly duty, that is, five suns having paid "1 per cent. to be made into six suns must the next year pay 1 per cent. on one "to be made into seven suns, or into first suns of a new king; nay I believe it will "not only defray the expenses of the Mint, but in a short time yield the Company "a handsome profit, whereas in the present circumstances their only profit, as I said "before, is the duty on bullion; and sometimes there is a large monthly expense "without any profit at all. In fine, if this method be not followed here while it "continues to be followed in the Nabob's Mints, it is my opinion the Mint will remain "of little or no benefit to the Company. *N. B.*—By the shroffs connected with the "farmer of the Mint, I mean Juggut Seat's house, who have the privilege of coming "and now stamping their money in the Nabob's Mint on paying to the farmer as "I understand a duty of ½ per cent.; by this privilege and by their great wealth and "influence in the country they reap the chief benefit arising from the abovementioned "practice, which I have called an indirect tax, and the Nabob finds it convenient to "indulge them therein in recompense for the loans and exactions he obliges them to "submit to in his exigencies of money. All old sicca rupees not diminished in "weight that have the flower on them, called foollee siccas, are fit to be stamped anew, "being in intrinsic value equal to new siccas."

468.—*Burdwan Raja's insolence—defeat of troops.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 1.]

To the Hon'ble JOHN Z. HOLWELL, ESQ.

HON'BLE SIR,—In former letters I have acquainted you of the insolence of the Rajah's forces; their behaviour for many days past in confining the Izardars and attempting to seize the treasure as it is brought to the Cutcherry, has not only given me great trouble but prevented my collecting more money. The day before yesterday they stopped Gocool Mojundor in his palanquin and threatened to confine him: this day Sook Lall, a jemadar, killed one of my sepoys, who was then unarmed in the town. I sent to enquire the reason, but could get no answer, therefore I sent a subadar with 30 sepoys to bring him to me, but to make no disturbance. Before they reached his house 7 or 800 forces were gathered, who presented their matchlocks as my sepoys were advancing; on this intelligence I sent orders to the subadar to retire to the Rajah's Cutcherry, and I detached Lieutenant Brown with about 200 men to his assistance with orders to avoid engaging if possible, but before Mr. Brown could speak to them they began firing; this occasioned an action in which I am sorry to say we have been greatly worsted, the serjeant and about 50 sepoys killed upon the spot, Mr. Brown and some others slightly wounded. Since the return of our forces to their quarters, I have intelligence that the enemy were increased to 5,000 strong, and premeditated an open rupture by seizing upon the treasure. These are the Rajah's unpaid discontented forces with other malcontents that harrass the inhabitants and disturb the peace of this province, everything is quiet at present and I believe will continue so. I cannot give you a more particular account this night, but will write again tomorrow.

I am, &c.,

(Sd.) HUGH WATTS.

Agreed that a detachment of 130 European and 300 sepoys do proceed to Burdwan to be joined by a party of 300 sepoys under the command of Lieutenant Nollikins, now on the other side of the river.

Mr. Ellis declining to go to Burdwan with this detachment:—

Agreed Mr. Sumner be deputed to receive the Rajah's proposals and to endeavour to settle matters without coming to extremities, and when affairs are accommodated with the Burdwan Rajah, the detachment to proceed to Midnapore to take possession of that Fouzdary.*

469.—*Arrack. Regulations for sale of—*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 31.]

As it appears that the present unlimited privilege of distilling and vending of arrack by the inhabitants of this place is attended with very bad consequences to the army and shipping, by supplying them with quantities of that liquor to the great detriment of their health, and causing riots and disturbances—Agreed for the future the sole liberty of distilling and vending of arrack be lodged in the hands of one person by farm, and that Messrs. Virelst and Smith be appointed to farm a set of regulations, and the most proper conditions to prevent the abuse thereof.

470.—*Diet Money in the Hospital 8 rupees a month.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 7.]

The surgeons representing to the Board that they are not able to diet the sick military in the Hospital at the rate of 6 rupees per month, and laying before us a statement of the same, agreed they be made an additional allowance of Rs. 2 per month for each man.

471.—*Candles in the Garrison.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 4.]

Observing the extravagant daily expense of candles in the garrison, agreed that it be in future limited to five, *viz.*:—2 for the Guard Room,

* Forty-four sipahis were killed and 57 wounded in this engagement in the Burdwan district.

2 for the patroles and 1 for the Town Major's Office, and ordered that the Military Store Keeper do daily issue that number to the Town Major.

472.—*Expenditure of Oil and Candles in Garrison.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 2.]

The daily expenses of oil in Garrison, September 1st 1760.

		Seers.	C.
The upper barracks ...			
The lower do. ...			
The Artillery do. ...			
Officers' quarters in the Fort...			
The new guard, Black Hole ...	Each day ...	16	8
The officers' guard room ...			
The Artillery guard ..			
The Magazine guard ...			
The Commanding Officers' quarters ..	...	2	0
The new works sent thereby ...	...	3	0
The sepoy guards in and about town	...	2	8
Per day seers	...	24	0

N. B.—The whole delivered by my sirkar daily.

(Sd.) M. WHITE,
Town Major.

The daily expenses of candles for the Public Offices in Garrison, September 3rd 1760.

The Commanding Officer ...	...	6 candles.
The Captain and Subaltern of the guard	...	4 „
Rounds and patroles ...	..	2 „
The Town Major's Office ...	...	6 „
Two assistants, two each ...	...	4 „
One Quarter Master ...	...	2 „
Four Serjeants Major ...	...	4 „
		28 per day.
		30
	Per month	840

N. B.—The maund runs to between 280 and 290. The two last in particular were 280 each.

(Sd.) M. WHITE,
Town Major.

473.—*Duties on Provisions denounced by the Grand Jury.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 4.]

The Grand Jury, in their last meeting of the , having presented to the Justices of the Sessions as a grievance to the public, the collection of duties on all provisions and necessaries of life brought into Calcutta by land, whereby the price of every article of subsistence was enhanced to a most exorbitant degree, and the hardship was most severe on the lowest class of people. The Board to do justice to their presentment, and to relieve the people's distress, took the same into consideration; and it appearing to them that the duties levied by the Land Custom Master by raising the price of all necessaries and consequently rendering the living in Calcutta extremely expensive to the lower class of people, such as coolies, workmen, &c., is detrimental to our employer's interest by discouraging members from residing in Calcutta, who otherwise would live in it, and obliging those few who are inhabitants to demand the higher wages by which the Company are at an expense much greater than their income arising from the land duties, especially if the wages paid the number of banians, writers, buxerries, &c., (employed in collecting those duties) which consumes by far the greatest part of them, is reckoned upon. That it was impossible for the greatest prudence to prevent many oppressions being committed by them on whoever brought their goods through the several chowkeys stationed to levy the duties, that it is evident how much the price of provisions is affected by the necessity we were under of increasing the allowance for diet to the sick in the hospital two rupees per month above what was before allowed.*

474.—*Oil Stones.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 15.]

That in future no allowances for oil stones be made to the military Officers. Likewise that a general list of allowances to the Company's servants, both civil and military, be sent to the Committee of Accounts.

475.—*The River encroaching on the Fort.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 15.]

The engineer representing to the Board that he is apprehensive the river by encroachments on this side may in time be detrimental to the glacis of the New Fort unless proper measures are taken to prevent its

* The Land Custom Duties were in consequence taken off, and the chowkies which were employed in levying them were removed; the Collector's tithe was also taken off. The Grand Jury having noticed the bad repair of the roads, the Government resolved to consider the question of a house tax to be appropriated to the roads, and to serve also as a compensation for the above reductions.

encroachments by throwing down a quantity of stones, bricks, &c., Ordered the Secretary to desire the commanders of all vessels with stone ballast on board to throw it out at the New Fort, and such vessels as come no higher than Culpee, to load it on board boats which we will send down for the purpose.

476.—*Land Tenure of Ryots to be secured.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 26.]

The Collector requests the Board will inform him whether the head farmers of the pergunnahs in the new lands are empowered to turn out the under-farmers at their pleasure, when their pottahs express that they have rented those lands for a certain sum to be paid *sun sun* or *hursun*.

The Board are of opinion that the giving the head farmers an absolute power of changing their tenants or under-farmers at their pleasure, will be a great inconvenience and attended with this bad consequence in collecting the revenues, that the under farmers and tenants, being either at an uncertainty in the possession of their farms or limited to a short time, will not give so high rents for the lands, their situation not admitting of their laying out money for the improvement of their farms, which may be taken from them at the discretion of the head farmer; it further appears to them that by the expression *hursun* or *sun sun*, there seems more than one year implied, which is further confirmed by its being customary for the lands to be rented for a number of years.

Ordered therefore that the under-farmers continue in their farms during the time specified in the terms of sale when the lands were put up at outcry, that is, that the under-farmers do possess their lands for three years from the last sale, provided always they pay their rents punctually.

477.—*Fort—cheating in.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 20.]

Extract from a letter from the Engineer in charge, to the Council.

As no statement of the fortification has been laid before the Board since they have been under my charge, I think it necessary that you should be informed what works have been executed, and

what are most necessary to go on with, the ensuing season, for putting the fort in a posture of defence, and making it of utility to the settlement.

But it might not be thought I have been negligent in my duty, I must beg leave to remind you of the great difficulties which I laboured under when I was first appointed to take the management of this important employ under Captain Brohier, having never before had the least practice in the branch; but the irregular method in which the works were carried on, gave me ten times more trouble and concern than anything else, as it very soon plainly appeared that the people really employed were not above two thirds of the number charged. That there was a great loss in not distributing them when mustered in a regular and proportionable manner to the several works carrying on, and appointing proper overseers to every party to prevent idleness or loss of time from irregularities or want of materials. That at this time all materials were likewise received and delivered by banians, who had it in their power (and I believe did not neglect the opportunity) to get at least 50 per cent. by false charges; to rectify this bad and unmethodical manner of proceeding, I made it my principal study from day to day to form some regulations which I put in practice so far as they depended on me; these regulations I laid before you for your approbation, and which with your assistance have been since put in practice, but this affected the banians so much that they almost all deserted the works; the bricklayers likewise followed their example so much, that out of 1,000 not 200 remained, and the coolies from 4,000 were reduced to 2 or 300, so that in the month of March and to the middle of April scarce anything was done; however by persevering in the same method some of the people came in again voluntarily; the bricklayers were forced in, and as to the coolies, Mr. Sumner obliged the pergunnahs each to send in their proportion of the number wanted, so that in May and June the works went on very fast, and before the rains set in the outer facings of the works were completed, and the drains of the ramparts all laid.

478.—*Causes of deposition of Mir Jaffer.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 10.]

A Memorial setting forth the causes of the late change in the Subahship.

The Nawab Jaffer Ali Khan was of a temper extremely tyrannical and avaricious, at the same time very indolent; and the people about him being either abject slaves

and flatterers or else the base instruments of his vices, there was no chance of having the affairs of the Government properly conducted but by their removal. He attributed all the ill success of his affairs to imaginary plots and contrivances, and sacrificed lives without mercy to the excess of his jealousy. Numberless are the instances of men of all degrees whose blood he has spilt without the least assigned reason; to learn the names and circumstances of all these sufferers would be a work of time-but some of the most striking examples are these following:—Coja Haddee, the first Buxey, was first banished for a pretended conspiracy against the Nabob's life, and afterwards cut off at Shahabad in his march out of the province; Mir Cazim, the second Buxey was invited by the Chuta Nabob to his house, and after having received from him unusual marks of affection assassinated at the gates of the palace. Yar Mahomed, formerly in great favor with the Nabob Suraja Dowla, and since Daroga of the Emarut, slain in the presence of the Chuta Nabob in the month of April, 1760.

Gasseta Begum, widow of the Nabob Shehamut Jung.
Emna Begum, mother to the Nabob Suraja Dowla.
Murada Dowla, the son of Padsha Chouli Chan, adopted by Shehamut Jung.
Suffen Nissa Begum, widow of the Nabob Suraja Dowla.
Her infant daughters by Suraja Dowla.

The five unhappy sufferers mentioned last perished all in one night at Dacca about the month of June 1760, where they had been detained prisoners since the accession of Jaffier Ali Khan to the Subahship. A perwanna was sent to Jessaut Khan, the Nabob of Dacca, to put to death all the survivors of the family of the Nabobs Aliverdi Khan, Shehamut Jung and Suraja Dowla, but upon his declining to obey so cruel an order, the messenger who had private instructions to execute this tragedy in case of the other's refusal, took them from the place of their confinement and carried them out at midnight upon the river, massacred and drowned them with about seventy women of inferior note and attendants. What became of Aliverdi Khan's widow is uncertain, it being reported by many that she escaped the fate of the rest of her family.

Executions of this kind made the Nabob the dread or the detestation of all good men, and he necessarily became a prey to people of mean extraction and abject dispositions, who, knowing that a government so managed could not stand long, sought only to make themselves rich by oppressions of all sorts upon the country and inhabitants. To the heavy taxes laid by them on the markets is ascribed the present unusual scarcity and dearness of provisions at the city, the capital of a country once esteemed the most plentiful in the world. The persons who have had the chief share in this bad management are Keenooram, Momilol and Cheeon, all of low birth, and the two first the menial servants of Jaffier Ally Khan before he came to the Subahship. These managed so as to engage him continually in idle or vicious amusements, keeping him in utter ignorance of his affairs, and in a state of indifference as to their success. No money came into his treasury, at the same time nothing was paid to his army, insomuch that his troops mutinied and surrounded his palace in a tumultuous manner, threatening to take away his life, which they would certainly have done, had not his son-in-law, the present Nabob Cossim Ally Khan, became answerable and paid them a very large sum

out of his own treasury. This happened last June, and if the imminent danger with which his person was threatened on this occasion awakened him for a moment, no sooner was it removed again to a distance than he fell back into the lethargy, which has so long possessed him.

479.—*Blowing from a gun a better Capital Punishment than whipping to death.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

The Board taking into consideration the usual method of punishing capital crimes in the Zemindarry by whipping to death, are of opinion that method does not sufficiently contribute to deterring criminals, as the example is not sufficiently public, and therefore order that punishment be changed into that of blowing from a gun.*

480.—*A Bricklayer's Petition to go home at the Company's expense.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

To the HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQUIRE, *President and Governor of Fort William, &c., and the rest of the Gentlemen of this Hon'ble Board.*

The humble petition of John Raper, Bricklayer.

SHOWETH,—That your petitioner begs leave in the most submissive manner to represent before this Hon'ble Board that this climate being disagreeable with his constitution (has a desire and an invitation home to his uncle and family to accept of his uncle's business), so begs the favor of this Hon'ble Presidency to provide him a passage, hoping that out of your clemency he might leave the country with credit, likewise to appear at home the same, and that your Honors be pleased to advance unto your petitioner a reasonable supply according to your wise and mature consideration.

481.—*Sunnud in Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

Translation of a Sunnud under the seal of the Nabob Nasserool Moolk Imteazo Dowla Nusserut Jung Meer Mahomed Cossim Khan Bahadur.

To the Zemindars, Canoongoes, Talookdars, Tenants, Husbandmen, and chief Villagers of the Pergunnah of Burdwan, &c.—The Zemindaree of the Rajah Tilluck

* A carpenter named Nayu was executed soon after according to the new method.

Chand, in the districts of the Subah of Bengal, be it known that whereas divers wicked people have traitorously stretched forth their hands to plunder the subjects, and waste the royal dominions, for this reason the said Pergunnah, &c., is granted to the English Company in part disbursement of their expenses, and the monthly maintenance of five hundred European horse, two thousand European foot, and eight thousand sepoys, which are to be entertained for the protection of the royal dominions. Let the above officers quietly and contentedly attend and pay to the persons appointed by the English Company the stated revenues, and implicitly submit in all things to their authority, and the office of the Collectors of the English Company is as follows:—

They shall continue the Zemindars and Tenants in their places, regularly collect the revenues of the lands, and deliver them in monthly for the payment of the expenses of the Company, and the pay of the above-mentioned forces, that they may be always ready cheerfully and vigorously to promote the affairs of the king. Let this be punctually observed. Dated the 14th of the month Rubbeeulawul 1st sun answering to the 1st of the month Cartic 1176, Bengal style.

N. B.—The sunnuds for the Chucla of Midnapore in the districts of the Subah of Orissa, and for the Thannah of Islamabad or Chattgaum appertaining to the Subah of Bengal, are worded as the above.

482.—*Pilots required.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER.]

To the HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQUIRE, *President and Governor, &c., Council of Fort William.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—I beg leave to recommend to your Honor, &c., notice the following Masters, *viz.*, Mr. Edward Savage, Senior Master, Mr. William Hollow and Mr. Peter Person, as good men and in every respect well qualified in the practice of this river and fit to be appointed Pilots in the Hon'ble Company's Marine, and, as there is no other way of procuring good men in the Hon'ble Company's Marine, but those who abscond from our Europe ships and some straggling foreigners, few of which are worthy of being advanced in the service, and as it is of material consequence to the Hon'ble Company as well as to private Traders in having capable men to conduct their ships in and out of this river, I request your Honor, &c., will please to recommend to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors the vast service it will be of to the Company in sending out good and able seamen and who are at the same time qualified to take charge of any of their vessels when

employed out of the river, by which they will save considerable sums which are now given to other gentlemen now employed in that service as a gratuity.

I am, &c.,

CALCUTTA, *The 30th November* 1860. (Sd.) ALEXANDER SCOTT, *Master Attendant.*

483.—*Burdwan, deplorable state of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 22.]

Letter from the Rajah of Burdwan to the Governor.

I have received with great pleasure the honor of your Perwannah. The ruinous and deplorable condition of Burdwan is not unknown to you. It has been wasted by the ravages of the armies as manifestly appeared to the Royroyan from a strict scrutiny into the accounts of the country for three years past, who thereupon made a computation of the rents, and carried a writer with the papers to the city. When you went to Moraudbaug, two copies of these papers were presented to you by Dhurjyroy Vakeel; these explained to you the true income of the lands. I have now sent to recall the writer with the papers which went with the Royroyan. After their arrival, I will despatch a trusty Mutsuddie to you with the papers; on the view of these whatsoever agreement you shall make according to the computation shall be regularly discharged. I have no objection to waiting upon you with the proper Officers, but the month of Aghun is the season for settling accounts, which will be greatly deficient if I go away at this time. For this reason I have deferred it, and wait for the arrival of the man with the writings from Moorshedabad, and when he comes, I will send him with the papers to you. All the revenues collected to the end of the month Cartic have been paid to the Royroyan, the particulars of which shall be afterwards explained to you from the face of the original accounts.

484.—*Perwannah for a Mint.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 25.]

Translation of the Nawab's Perwannah for the establishment of a Mint in Calcutta.

To the Noblest of Merchants the English Company be the royal favour. In Calcutta a Mint is established. You shall coin Gold and Silver of equal weight and fineness with the Ashrefees and Rupees of Moorshedabad in the name of Calcutta. In the Suburbs of Bengala, Behar and Orissa, they shall be current and they shall pass in the Royal Treasury and no person shall demand or insist on a discount upon them. Dated the 11th of the moon Zeehada in the 4th year.

485.—*Governor's travelling expenses to Moorshedabad.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 25.]

The Hon'ble Company ... ... *Dr.*

To DURBAR CHARGES.

59 Boats for the Governor's service going and returning from Moorshedabad 1 month and 6 days.					
3 Budgerows at 3 Rs. per day	216	0	0		
20 Hoollucks 6 Oars at 28 Rs. per month ...	672	0	0		
22 Do. 8 do. at 36 „ „ ...	890	0	0		
12 Do. 10 do. at 40 „ „ ...	576	0	0		
2 Do. 4 do. at 24 „ „ ...	57	0	0	2,411	0	0
Presents given to Nabob's people those that waited with Fruits, &c.	634	0	0			
To his other Servants	1,289	0	0			
				1,923	0	0
Nuzzer to the Nabob 40 Goldmohurs and 69 Sicca Rs. ...				674	8	0
To Moorshedabad Vakeel, one suit of clothes				257	0	0
Servants Battey for 1 month and 6 days, being 169 men, Chobdars, Peons, Mussalchees, Soutaburdars, Burkundaz, Munceys, Sircars and Bearers	724	4	0			
Bearers' hire from Cossimbazar, paid Mr. Sykes ...	833	8	0			
30 Mussalchees' hire for 1 month and 6 days ...	120	0	0			
Table expenses for provisions and wines going and coming	3,500	0	0			
3 pieces of scarlet cloth for musket cases and Bearers' clothes	240	12	0			
Dammer, Oil, Messals, &c.	238	8	0			
				5,657	0	0
Arcot Rupees ...				10,922	8	0

CALCUTTA, 31*st October* 1760.

(Sd.) HENRY VANSITTART.

486.—*The Zemindars got Sepoys to collect Bricklayers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 15.]

Extract from a letter from the Committee of Works to the Governor, dated 15th December, 1760.

The method of collecting by Sepoys, the Bricklayers that live within the bounds of Calcutta being found not so effectual as we could wish, and at the same time oppressive to the inhabitants, we recommend that orders be given to the zemindar to send out proper people to discover them and conduct them to the Company's works.

Bricklayer's	Maistrees	...	Sa. Rs.	9	0	0	per month.
2nd	ditto	...	... „	5	10	0	„
„	Mates ...	...	... „	4	3	6	„
Bricklayers	...	...	... „	3	4	6	„

487.—*Burdwan Raja's Accounts.*

PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 18.]

The President acquaints the Board of the arrival two days ago of Raj Chunder Roy, a principal Vakeel of Burdwan with other writers despatched by the Rajah to settle the payment of his rents to the Company. The following is the abstract of the accounts they have brought of the computation made by the Royroyan of the real produce, and to which the Rajah in his several letters has referred as the utmost he is capable of paying.

The Malgoozary or King's Revenue, consisting of the Khalsa—

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Jagheer and Chouth				26,37,937	4	1
Deduct the loss computed to have been suffered by the incursions of the Mahrattas and the devastations made by the Shahzada's Army, the beginning of the year ...	7,93,080	3	9			
For the Sootimahul or duties on piece goods, which the Nabob Jaffir Ally Khan forbid to be collected	1,16,711	1	17			
For the Pergunnah of Beolia ceded to the Company being a part of the new lands ...	38,750	7	3			
				9,48,541	12	5
Remains ...				16,89,395	7	6
Old balance remaining due from the Rajah to the Government for the past years ...	16,51,872	10	18			
Of which the Royroyan struck off on account of losses	14,70,482	9	14			
				1,81,390	1	4
Total Sicca Rs. ...				18,70,785	8	10
Of which Royroyan collected on the part of the Nabob ...				9,60,700	12	0
Now remaining due to the Company, Sicca Rupees ...				9,10,084	12	10
				18,70,785	8	10

This was the account first delivered by Raj Chunder Roy, but as the cession now made of the zemindary of Burdwan to the Company entitles them, not only to the King's revenue of the Khalsa Jagheer and Chouth, but also to all other tributes and allowances for Durbar charges, &c., before paid to the Court of Moorshedabad; the President therefore demanded from Raj Chunder Roy the account of that revenue, also of which he delivered the following statement:—

Sundry allowances to the Government for Durbar charges and computed by Royroyan for the present year	2,18,182	0	9
To be deducted in consideration of losses by enemies	50,982	8	9
	1,67,199	8	0
Of which Roy Royon received on the part of the Nabob	42,000	0	0
	1,25,199	8	0
On account of the King's revenues as above particularized	9,10,084	12	16
On account of Durbar charges, &c.	1,25,199	8	0
Total ...	10,35,284	4	16

A statement was accordingly formed of the whole together as follows, with kistbundee or proposed sums of payment, conformable to which the Vakeel offer on the part of the Rajah to pay the rents to the Company in the course of the four remaining months of the present Bengal year 1167.

Khalsa Jagheer and Chouth	26,37,937	6	9			
Sundry allowances or Durbar charges, &c., to the Sircar	2,18,182	0	9			
				28,56,119	7	6
Deduct—						
The Pergunnah called Bealan, now belonging to the Company	38,750	7	1			
The Sattimaul or the duties on piece goods, which the Nabob Jaffir Ally Khan ordered not to be collected	1,16,711	1	9			
				1,55,461	8	10
Rs. ...				27,00,657	14	8

To be paid in 5 years according to kistbundee, in consideration of the damages done to the country by the Mahrattas and the marches of the Army, *viz.*:—

In the year 1168 or 1761	...	...	1,50,000 0 0	
1169 „ 1762	...	...	1,70,000 0 0	
1170 „ 1763	...	...	1,70,000 0 0	
1171 „ 1764	...	...	1,70,000 0 0	
1172 „ 1765	...	...	1,84,062 15 0	
				8,44,062 15 0
		Rs.	...	18,56,594 15 8
Old Balance due, according to Rajah Tilluck Chund's account, being the remains of Rs. 16,51,872 15 10			...	1,81,390 1 2
				20,37,985 0 10
Whereof Royroyan received in the year 1167 or 1760 from August to September, according to the Rajah's account			...	10,02,700 12 0
			Rs.	10,35,284 4 10

Kistbundee of the year 1167 or 1760.

Poos, ending the 10th January 1760	...	...	Rs.	2,85,000 0 0
Maug, „ the 10th February	...	...	„	2,75,000 0 0
Pagoun, „ the 10th March ...	...	...	„	2,50,000 0 0
Cheyt, „ the 10th April ...	...	...	„	2,25,284 4 10
		Sicca Rupees	...	10,35,284 4 10

Although it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that the beforegoing statement is far from the real value of the produce of Burdwan, even allowing for the damage the country has sustained; yet considering the present circumstances, how many of the Zemindars have taken part with the Shahzadah, and how near Burdwan was being persuaded to take the same course, considering also our present occasion for money. It is thought more advisable to accept the payments offered for the four remaining months of the Bengal year, than to proceed to forcible measures at this time when the Rajah and his principal officers are prepared to leave the country upon the first approach of such a force as they judge themselves unable to oppose; which would occasion at least a general confusion in the country and a stoppage of the revenues for some time. It is besides to be considered that all the troops that can possibly be spared from hence are at present otherwise employed. During those four months the accounts particulars of every pergunnah which Raj Chund Roy has brought and will leave here with the writers, may be examined by the Committee of Lands, and either a new computation insisted on, or such other resolutions taken

for increasing the rents, as may be thought most advisable, and such measures taken in time for enforcing those resolutions, that it may be done without exposing the country to the risk of being laid waste by the Rajah's own people and deserted by the principal inhabitants, who at this time are ready to fly upon the first alarm, suspecting that the Rajah's late behaviour might occasion our sending forces against him.

Upon these considerations, it is agreed to accept the kistbundee as offered by Raj Chund Roy for the payment of Sicca Rupees ten lacs and thirty-five thousand two hundred and eighty-four, four annas and ten pie (10,35,284-4-10) in the present year 1167 Bengal style. There is however an article among the deductions required, which seems quite groundless and unreasonable, that of 1,16,711-1-17 for Sootemahul or duties on piece goods, said to be struck off by the Nabob Jaffir Ally Khan; it not appearing by all the enquiries we can make that any such general order was ever given by the said Nabob, only a perwannah to enforce the Company's right to trade free of all duties, which had been encroached upon by the zemindars; all other merchants, trading without a dustuck, we believe have ever paid the zemindar's duties, and still continue to do so, in which case no deduction on this account can justly be demanded.

The President is therefore desired to talk further with Raj Chund Roy upon this article, and to insist as far as possible upon its being added to the amount of rents before mentioned.

488.—*A Pilot's protest about a ship with despatches being detained.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 22.]

I, Francis Snaker, Pilot in the Hon'ble East India Company's service, do hereby protest against you, Captain Andrew Quick, for not being in readiness to go away, you having received your despatches ever since the 19th instant, and declared to Mr. Peter Connor, Deputy Master Attendant, that you were ready to sail.

Thus done and protested on board the ship *Sandwick* this 21st day of December 1760.

(Sd.) FRANCIS SNAKER.

In the presence of

(Sd.) THOMAS GRANT,

,, RICHARD DEAN.

489.—*Presents.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 24.]

The Hon'ble Company ... ... *Dr.*

Presents made to Rajah Tilluck Chund.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Elephant	2,000	0	0			
1 Suit of clothes	600	0	0			
1 Sirpaitch set with diamonds	400	0	0			
				3,000	0	0
To Dewan Omarchund—						
1 Suit of clothes	500	0	0			
1 Horse	500	0	0			
1 Tulwar or sword	50	0	0			
1 Sirpaitch	300	0	0			
				1,350	0	0
To Ram Devey Nauck—						
1 Suit of clothes	225	0	0			
1 Horse	500	0	0			
				725	0	0
To Gokul Mojumdar—						
1 Suit of clothes	225	0	0			
1 Horse	500	0	0			
				725	0	0
To Rajbindra Roy—						
1 Suit of clothes	...		...	225	0	0
To Rajchund Roy, Vakeel—						
1 Suit of clothes	225	0	0			
1 Horse	500	0	0			
				725	0	0
To Dananjoy Roy, Vakeel—						
1 Suit of clothes	...		...	175	0	0
7 Shawls given to 6 Vakeels...	...		...	600	0	0
	Arcot Rs.			7,525	0	0

Extracts from letters to Government in the Persian Department.*

490.—*The Phousdar of Hooghly oppresses.*

[FROM THE NAWAB JAFFIR ALI KHAN, JULY.]

The Phousdar of Hooghly sends men into the pergunnahs to plunder and oppress the ryots. You have been under a necessity of writing to Mr. Howell (who was sent to collect in the tuncars) directing him that in case the Phousdar's people continue to act in that manner, to oblige them to go out of the place, which orders he has complied with. The low men that are employed in the tuncars are not to be depended on. You acquaint me that my jemadars at Nudya, Burdwan, to have acted by force.

491.—*Mahrattas plundering in Burdwan.*

[FROM RAJA TILLAK CHAND, BURDWAN, AUGUST.]

How can I relate to you the present deplorable situation of this place. Three months the Mahrattas remained here burning, plundering and laying waste the whole country, but now, thank God, they are all gone, but the inhabitants are not yet returned. The inhabitants have lost almost all they were worth.

492.—*Mahrattas.*

[FROM RAJA TILLAK CHAND, BURDWAN, AUGUST.]

You are well acquainted with the bad situation of this place at present, but hope I shall be able to pay you the money in the time that I agreed. It has been my bad fortune to have my country burned, plundered and destroyed by the Mahrattas, which is the reason that there is now a balance due to the Company; and to reinstate my country again must be attended with great difficulties, which gives me much uneasiness.

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* These letters are from Soliman Beg Phousdar of Hoogley, Coja Petrose, Jugut Set, Mir Kassim Ali Khan, Nawab Jafir Ali, Golam Haseyn Khan, Raja Ram Narayan, Rajah Dulub Ram, &c., &c., relating chiefly to the collecting the revenue, the Mahrattas, the Dutch, the Birbhum Raja, plundering Sepahis mutinous at not getting pay looting the people; Telinga troops. There were plenty of flowery expressions such as "God grant that your shadow may be as durable as that of the Phœnix." "By God's grace the shadow of his Majesty will be a yew."

493.—*Ill-treating a Merchant by a Gomastah.*

[FROM BALASORE MERCHANTS, AUGUST.*]

A sloop belonging to Lalloo Kur is arrived here from Calcutta and has brought several naval stores for his grub, for this reason Juggunaut, for his profit, asked for what reason they brought stores from Calcutta, and why he did not purchase this of him, and therefore placed peons upon his house and pulled down his house in the Burra Butta; and in the same manner treated Mutiram, merchant; and for a year after gave him much trouble and ruined his house, and we are continually receiving ill-treatment from him, for this reason we have petitioned and wait your pleasure.

494.—*Medicine for Jagat Set.*

[FROM ROYROYAN, SEPTEMBER.]

Your friendly letter in answer to mine, together with the oil and extract of horn and other medicines wrapt in paper for the cure of Juggut Seat's arm dislocated by his foot slipping, with the letter, I have received, and I understand the contents; but you have not wrote in what manner the medicines are to be applied, for this reason I shall trouble you to send with expedition the name of the medicines in the paper and the method to apply them in separate notes, and I will forward them to Juggut Seat.

495.—*A Doctor wanted to apply medicine to Jagat Set.*

[FROM JAGAT SET, SEPTEMBER.]

Saturday the 20th of Morum, at 6 o'clock in the evening, as I was returning from dinner upon plain ground my foot slipped and I fell down, by which accident my shoulder was disjointed and two hours after I was bereaved of my senses. Shortly after a Commungore came and gave me physic, and by God's grace it was replaced by the 2nd of Zuffer, and I am much better, but yet I have not got the use of my arm; and I have received your favorable letter and the oil and extract of horn and other medicine and therefore I think you have done it from your own heart, and since their arrival I have gained much strength, but you did not mention in what manner the medicines were to be applied, for this reason I have not used them, they remain as you sent them. I hope you will order to the people to write the direction and what regimen is necessary to be observed and shall immediately comply with them. My hand was

* They complained of the decay of trade, and how they were anxious to send vessels with cargoes of rice to Calcutta; but that this Juggunaut imposed double duties.

lost to me, but your favour I have received the use of it again, and I beg you will enquire and send me what other medicines may be necessary to remove the pain, and write me concerning the application, and also send a Doctor that perfectly understands the nature of the medicines. By your complying with these requests, after my recovery, as long as I have life I shall retain a grateful sense of it.

P. S.—Since yesterday, the 2nd Zuffer, Doctor Hancock has given me physic, and I write this for your information, and I imagine you wrote to Doctor Hancock about it, and therefore from your favour it is I have received so great benefit. God grant you long life and many riches.

496.—*The Dutch run away to Birbhum.*

[FROM ANAND LALL, SEPTEMBER.]

The friendly letter you wrote me states that some Dutch Europeans had run away from their ship and gone to the Beerboom Raja, for which reason you have a camp at Dewangunge and had sent some sepoys and officers, and directing me to have them assisted with what they may have occasion for, and also to have them supplied with bazar, and write to my people to take particular care that no Dutchmen pass through the country, and seize any that attempts it and send them to Calcutta; I have received and observe the contents and am much rejoiced. Before this I wrote to the inhabitants of Dewangunge to supply them with all necessaries, and have wrote to my own camp to take care that no Dutchmen go over to the Beerboom country, and to seize any they meet with and send them to Calcutta. What more trouble need I give you?

497.—*Telingas run away to the Birbhum Rajah.*

[FROM NAWAB JAFIR ALI KHAN, SEPTEMBER.]

The friendly letter you wrote, acquainting that some Dutch Europeans had run away from the Dutch ships at Fulta and Chinsurah and gone over to the Beerboom Rajah, and therefore at Dewangunge in Burdwan you have ordered them to be seized and brought to Calcutta, which I have received, and am much rejoiced. You have done well to send the Company to Dewangunge to lay hold of them. Three hundered Telingees are run away and entered into the Beerboom Rajah's service, but to prevent which in future you have ordered a look out to be kept at Fultah, Calcutta, Chinsurah and Cassimbazar, so that not a man can escape to Beerboom. Caja Mahomedye Khan, my Buxey, is going to chastise the Beerboom Rajah, for your information I have written this.

498.—*The Dutch made prisoners,—Dawk stopped.*

[FROM GOSAL CHAND, SEPTEMBER.]

I am informed the Dutch chief at Bimlipatam has left that factory and embarked his jenninora on board a sloop bound to Chinsurah, which put in at Burda, a place about 20 koss from Ganjam, in order to furnish themselves with water. The women went ashore to recreate themselves, Tantdu (Narrandu's brother) Phousdar of Acheepoor, got intelligence of their arrival, he then first seized the women and afterwards the sloop. The dawks employed on the road to Ganjam brought me these news. Golaum Mustapha, whom M. Burdett sent to Cuttack to place the dawks on the roads, has been seized and made a prisoner two days by Chuckoo Sootooar, who transacts the Doctor's business here, for which reason I reproved him, which enrages him so much that he went to Dewan Sallubram and Machinda Pundits.

499.—*Telinga Sipahis plunder Burdwan ryots.*

[FROM RAJA TILAK CHAND, BURDWAN.]

A number of Telingees are gone into the pergunnahs of Mundulghaut, Monkore, Juhanabaud, Chitwar, Bursat, Balgurry, Chomahaw and other places and have plundered the inhabitants and otherwise ill-treated them to the danger of their lives, and which has obliged them to run away, and detrimented the places to the amount of 2 or 3 lacs of rupees. I am sensible this is not your intention, but where the Telingees went they have beat the inhabitants, you placing a camp in the roads was necessary, and they had no occasion to go to the villages, and therefore I desire you will write to the officer there to recall the Telingees from the villages that the inhabitants may be free from their ill-treatment.

500.—*Telingas continue plundering.*

[FROM RAJA TILAK CHAND, BURDWAN.]

The Telingees that are encamped at Dinyercolly, Durgaum, Dewangunge and other places continually go to the villages of Chomahaw, Balgurry, Juhanabaud, Chitwar, Mundulghaut and plunder them, and my writers and gomastahs cannot remain there in quietness nor receive the revenues, &c.; the ryots, from the behaviour of the Telingees, suffer

greatly and are obliged to leave their habitations. From this a considerable loss will accrue. I am sensible this is not done by your or the Governor's orders, or was it your intentions, and your desires were only that they should remain in their camp, but instead of which they travel over the villages and plunder what they can; whatever is for my interest that you do, for this reason I shall trouble you to write to the officer not to act in this manner, but keep the people in the camp, and I beg you will send a proper person to the camp to admonish and direct them not to do in this manner again, and not to molest the mootsuddies, ryots and others in any respect. What remain my vakeel will acquaint you. What more trouble need I give you?

501.—*The Birbhum Raja a Traitor.*

[FROM NAWUB JAFER ALI KHAN.]

The friendly letter you wrote, acquainting me that 125 Telingees were gone to Dewangunge and as many more to Fulta side and some to near Chinsurah, and that you had given some Europeans and Telingees to come to Cassimbazar with Colonel Sife Jung, where they will remain for any service that may be required. Then you also wrote that there are now many Europeans and Telingees at Calcutta, and that you are ready to root out our enemies and chastise the Beerboom Rajah, who is a traitor; and this letter and the proposals of the Dutch I have received and has made my heart exceeding glad, and am much rejoiced that you have sent the troops with Colonel Sife Jung, and regard to the chastising the Beerboom Rajah and keeping the troops at Cassimbazar, so it shall be done, and I hope the Company's troops will ever increase, and my strength will be greater, and we shall root out all our enemies. What more shall I write?

502.—*Mutinous Sipahis.*

[FROM RAM NARAYAN.]

The news of the quarrel of the sepoys, formerly the deceased Nabob's, with Maharajah Raj Bullub for their wages, and of his going to the city, I have before wrote you. Maharajah is greatly ashamed and distressed by them, nor will they release him till the money is paid. This quarrel has put the city into confusion for four or five days, and the bazar, roads and gates have been stopped. Cassim Ally Khan has wrote several

letters to Mr. Amyatt, and to me once, to make the sepoys contented by some means, and to send Maharaja Raj Bullub down to the city in a boat. Mr. Amyatt has not interfered in the quarrel. My situation your Excellency must be acquainted with, I am almost dead, and the sepoys for their wages are ready to assassinate me with their creeses, but through your favor and riches they have been prevented. The deceased Nabob's sepoys' wages is not yet settled, and every one says that a lac of rupees is their due.

503.—*The Birbhum Rajah.*

[FROM TILAK CHAND, RAJA OF BURDWAN, SEPTEMBER.]

How can I describe the ill-treatment of the Beerboom Rajah, the pergunnahs of Sherugur, Sunpany, Gualler, Boon, Armatshy, Mosufershy, Morahershy are ruined, and it is at your pleasure to get me redress. What more can I write?

504.—*The Burdwan Rajah raising Troops.*

[FROM SOLIMEN BEG, NOVEMBER.]

Now I am informed that the Burdwan Rajah is entering men into his service; that 15,000 peons, pikes and robbers and others are already in pay and others are daily entering. I am informed of this from people that are continually coming from that side.

505.—*A recusant Zemindar.*

[FROM NAWAB MIR KASIM ALI KHAN, NOVEMBER.]

Kummanund, the zemindar of Myhutty pergunnah is a great villain, has great wealth and is possessed of many goods and effects, and I sent people to seize him and bring him to me; but I understand that he has left his pergunnah and carried off his money and effects; for this reason I shall trouble you, that if he goes to Calcutta you will make him prisoner and send him to me with his goods and effects.

506.—*The Burdwan and Birbhum Rajas in league.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, NOVEMBER.]

I am informed that the zemindar of Burdwan has bad intentions, and has conferences with the Beerboom Rajah, and they have agreed to

act in conjunction; I hope that you will send troops to Chuckla Burdwan, Midnapoor, Islamabad, to take possession of them and nothing can accrue from their bad intentions, and by God's grace I will speedily go myself and chastise the Beerboom Rajah. What more shall I write?

507.—*The Burdwan Rajah in revolt.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, NOVEMBER.]

I hear from Burdwan that the zemindar intends to fight, and that he has collected together 10 or 15 thousand peons and robbers and takes them into pay and joined the Beerboom Rajah. Since this I am preparing speedily to send 2 or 3 thousand horsemen, and 5 or 6 thousand peons to chastise the Beerboom Rajah.

508.—*The Burdwan Rajah's oppressions.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, NOVEMBER.]

The zemindar of Chutwar Burda and Chunder Coomar has been in that station for many years, but is now deprived of his country by the Burdwan Rajah, who takes to himself all the advantages that arise from it and will not return it to him, and therefore it is my intention to send for the old zemindar and give him a surpan, make him happy and re-instating him in the zemindary. This will be one means of distressing the Burdwan Rajah.

509.—*The Mahrattas take Balasore.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, NOVEMBER.]

Your letter, full of assurances of favour, acquainting me that on the 3rd day of Rubbee-u-Sance, the chief of Balasore had wrote you that four or five hundred Mahrattas were arrived at Balasore and had had action with Meer Abdulram Khan, the Phousdar there; that on both sides many men were slain and wounded, and Meer Abdulram Khan was made prisoner and carried away, and that you had sent 3 companies of sepoys to Midnapoor to reconnoitre the roads. This letter I have received, and was much rejoiced to hear of your health.

510.—*The Nuddea Rajah defers payment on various pretexts.*

[FROM ROYROYAN, DECEMBER.]

Your favorable letter, acquainting me of your health, I have received and am much rejoiced as to what you wrote with your favorable pen concerning the Zemindar of Nuddea. The Company's business and that of the Nabob, his Excellency looks upon as the same, and you are of that opinion also, and therefore what can I say in regard to Nuddea Zemindar. It is now two months he has put us off by saying, first that his Dasharrah holidays were coming on, and afterwards that his Deywally holidays were at hand, and now he has complained to you that his wife is sick; but his reasons for being so backward to come to the city is lest he should be obliged to pay his debt, and if he does not come to the city the money will never be paid, and for his vakeel to come here will be of no service. You must be acquainted from many people how much the Nabob is distressed for money to pay his troops, for this reason I have sent people to bring the Nuddea zemindar, and therefore I beg you will write to the zemindar to proceed speedily to the city with the money for the two months' revenues which he has not paid according to the Kistbundee, and forward the rest with the utmost expedition.

511.—*Quarrels for Arrears of Pay.*

[FROM MAHARAJA RAJ BULLABH, DECEMBER.]

I have endeavoured much to get money but without success, and therefore have been obliged to borrow some broad cloth of Mr. Amyatt to deliver the sepoys in lieu of their wages. This, the 1st day of Rubbee-u-Sannee, Sorabond, Meer Fuzl Ally Syed, Asamutulah Khan came into my Dewankhannah, where they seated themselves and declared they would not move till they got their pay, and Sheik Deen Mahomed and others came to visit me and seated themselves also. I was then shaving in another room. Meer Fuzl Ally and 20 or 30 others consulted with Asamutulah Khan and came into me and spoke both soft and sweet words, and I represented things to them in a proper manner and promised to do my utmost endeavours to satisfy them; but they would not listen to me, and brought me out into the Dewankhannah where there were many people and placed me amongst them, upon which my own people came running to my assistance and a skirmish was likely to have ensued, and the

consequence whereof would have been the city being plundered and the Sircar's business greatly detrimented, for this reason I prevented it and gave them good words, and sometime after they departed.

512.—*The Burdwan Rajah to be chastised.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

Today I am come to the Tewah Baug, and the day after tomorrow shall get to Rommurah, I desire you will not be backward in chastising the Burdwan Rajah, he is of a bad caste. I beg you will be expeditious in sending your troops and the affair will soon be settled and the zemindar will be brought to subjection.* If Major White goes the Beerboom road he will join Major York, and return they act in conjunction and they will chastise the Beerboom Rajah.

513.—*Fear of the Mahrattas.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

The Burdwan Rajah does not forget to collect troops; I am informed that Misoree Khan, through the apprehension he is under from the Mahrattas, cannot remain at Midnapore, and I hear he is not a man of great veracity and has collected many rupees from the Tuncars, and if he remains there a considerable loss will arise from it. Gawsib Sing, the Jellisore Tannadar, is now on the Midnapore side, and is a man of great valour, and I beg you will write a letter to him with assurances of favour, and he will remain at Midnapore and the ryots will be contented, and desire you will send two or three companies of sepoys to Midnapore.

514.—*British Sipahis plunder the Rayats.*

[RAJA TILLAK CHAND, DECEMBER.]

By the letter you wrote I understood that, looking upon my country, you had sent Major White to Midnapore for my service. Major White is gone from Hooghley and has arrived some days at Dewangunge, but

* The Raja complains in one of his letters of being misrepresented by interested parties; in one case "the Royroyan sent for the accounts of the rents for three years, chastised the writer and, after a strict examination, made a new valuation."

how can I express their bad behaviour on the way. The troops with him plundered and ill-treated the ryots, insomuch that they are obliged to run away, for this reason the revenues on that side will suffer considerably; notwithstanding they are now at Dewangunge, they continue the same practices. From their behaving in this manner the Company only will be the loosers.

515.—*No Siccas taken without batta.*

[NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

The friendly letter you wrote me I have received and am much rejoiced. You acquainting me that all the Company's gomastahs have wrote complaints to you that all the zemindars, weavers and others will not take the Calcutta siccas without the batta, for this reason the Company's business is at a stand, and therefore they have sent the siccas to the city to have them exchanged, where the battas of the Calcutta siccas are 2 per cent.; for this reason you beg I will send a perwannah for the Calcutta sicca to be stamped as those of Muxádavad, and they will be current, for this reason you have made eleven rupees in the Calcutta Mint agreeable to those of Muxadavad and sent me. It is customary that one city siccas should have the name of those of another city. It was not customary before to pay any batta upon the Calcutta siccas, and therefore I will tell Roy-royan to threaten the zemindars and others not to want the batta on the Calcutta siccas, and those that will not take them without the batta send their name to me and I will severely chastise them, and also the names of those that take the batta send their names to me and I will fine them for it and chastise them properly, then they will not act so again, and the Calcutta siccas will go the same as those of Muxadavad.

516.—*Zemindars in Burdwan.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

You write that the Burdwan Zemindar is but a young weak man and his people of no consequence, and regarding the good of his country you have prevented the Troops from going to Burdwan and sent them to Midnapoor. The Burdwan Zemindar has entered sepoys into his service and his intentions are evil, but that will avail nothing. Till he has dismissed his troops, come to you and settled everything, his writing

and speaking will not satisfy us. The Zemindars will before you be submissive and comply with every thing you propose, but they are all deceit and only wait an opportunity to surprise you.

517.—*A Zemindary not to be given to an Armenian.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

Your friendly letter I have received and am much rejoiced. Rammanund's brother has acquainted you with his affairs and with your friendly pen you acquaint me that Rammanund has for a long time enjoyed the zemindary and therefore direct me to reinstate him. That Coja Petruse is a man for business, is continually with one or the other, and is much favoured by us, but it is contrary to all custom to give a zemindary to an Armenian.

What you say concerning Coja Petruse, that he is a man for business and continually with us, is of no consequence, and looking upon the services he had done me I promised him for a long time the small zemindary of Rammanund. A month is elapsed since Coja Petruse paid the Nuzzerana and afterwards I wrote and gave him the sunnud, for that zemindary Rammanund would not pay the rents, and therefore I beg you will have him seized and made prisoner. If I reverse my orders, every man will say I am a man of no principles. I crave from the Almighty that I may always be true to my agreement. The removing the zemindar is a matter of no moment, because the collecting of the King's revenues is of the greatest importance; for this reason these removals frequently happen. At this time I am in great want of money for the sepoys and other expenses. Rammanund is a wealthy man and therefore I hope you will give orders to have him sent to me very speedily.

518.—*Sipahis mutinous for wages.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

That within twenty days if a letter does not arrive from Muxadavad, then all the troops shall proceed to Muxadavad for their wages; for this reason he has sent the copy thereof for me to understand.

519.—*The Zemindars intend to join the Mahrattas.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, DECEMBER.]

The Zemindar of Burdwan and others have wrote to the Shah Zeadat that when Hossein Ali Khan proceeds to Patna they will join the Mahrattas and take possession of Muxadavad, to which the Shah Zeadat has consented.

520.—*Canton. Commercial news from—*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 18.]

The *Muxadabad*, a country ship, being arrived from Canton, brings us two letters from the Hon'ble Company's supercargoes there, dated the 30th December 1759. The one enclosing Invoice of 2 Bales of Yellow Cloth they have sent us on the above ship, the other advising of the Emperor of China having prohibited the exportation of Wrought and Raw Silks. That they have sent by the same conveyance a set of Mill Stones for grinding sugar canes, which they request we will forward to the Gentlemen at Fort Marlborough by the first opportunity that offers.

521.—*The Mahrattas march from the Deccan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 25.]

Agreed we write to the Commanding Officer of our Sepoys marching from Deccan and advise him of Shubut's having entered this Province with a party of Maharattas and commenced hostilities, that he may be on his guard as he advances towards us.

522.—*Advances due by Coolies.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 20.]

The Board proceeding in the consideration of the report of the Committee of Accounts under date the 1st December 1759, and observing the balance of Rs. 7,257-7-0 due from Coolies formerly employed on the new works.

Agreed Mr. Howitt, the present Resident in Rajah Tillack Chund's Country for the collection of the tuncahs, be wrote to, to demand of that Rajah the sum of Rs. 1,237-10-3 for which he was security; and that the Gentlemen at Cassimbazar be wrote to, to demand from

Satubdy Bildar the sum of Rs. 2,326-6-3 advanced him on account Coolies, and that the present Pay Master do use his utmost endeavours to collect the other sums from the remaining Assamies.

523.—*Cuttack Factory. Charges of—*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 26.]

The charges of Cuttack Factory for July, August, September and October being laid before us, we find the charge of Servants' Wages amounts to 1,690 rupees and Travelling charges to 1,318-6-6; we are of opinion the President and Council will judge these charges much too high and therefore refer them to their consideration. The charge of Cossid and Hurcarrah hire and maintenance of European Soldiers, we imagine to have been necessary, and that the particulars thereof have been duly delivered into the Board.

524.—*Scavenger's allowance.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 21.]

Mr. Handle, applying to the Board to have his allowance of Scavenger increased, and representing to us the great fatigue he undergoes and loss of time, which the Board being very sensible of. Agreed we allow him Rs. 20 per month more than before on account of his diligence and assiduity in that post.*

525.—*A widow's pension.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 21.]

Mrs. Hamilton, the widow of the late Lieutenant F. Hamilton, being in a very distressed situation. Agreed she be allowed C. Rs. 20 per month, and that it be paid by the Buxey.

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* Mr. Handle had, previous to this, the farming the Arrack, but on that being abolished in consequence of its increasing drunkenness he was appointed "Scavenger of Calcutta."

526.—*Hon'ble Company's Plate.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 15.]

Hon'ble Company's Account Dead Stock ... ... Dr.

SILVER PLATE, *viz.*

				Rs.	As.	As.	Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	As.	P.
1 Saucepan	...	...	weighing siccas	97	8	at 14				85	5	0
1 other do.	...	...	„ „	78	12	at 15¼				75	1	0
3 odd Salvers	...	...	„ „	248	12	at 18¼				283	11	6
1 pair deep Dishes		...	„ „	196	6	at 16⅓				202	10	3
1 deep Dish	...	...	„ „	65	12	at 18				75	15	6
1 Ditto.	...	...	„ „	67	12	at 16				67	12	0
1 Ring	...	...	„ „	64	12	at 15				60	11	3
1 Coffee Pot and Stand	...	„	„	139	12	at 22				192	2	6
1 pair Sauceboats and Spoons		„	„	93	2	at 19				110	9	0
1 pair do. do.		„	„	91	8	at 19¼				110	1	3
1 pair do., no Spoons	...	„	„	83	4	at 20				104	1	0
1 pair flat Candlesticks	...	„	„	82	2	at 18½				94	15	3
2 other pairs	...	...	„ „	80	2	at 19½				97	10	6
2 other pairs	...	...	„ „	78	12	at 21⅓				105	13	0
1 large Cup	...	...	„ „	254	0	at 20½				325	7	0
12 Tea Spoons	...	...	„ „		.....					27	0	0
10 Ditto	...	...	„ „		.....					21	0	0
12 Table spoons	...	...	„ „	34	12	at 21				45	9	9
12 Ditto	...	...	„ „	34	4	at 21				44	15	3
12 Ditto	...	...	„ „	35	2	at 21½				47	3	3
3 pair large Candlesticks	...	„	„	464	0	at 20				580	0	0
1 Epergne	...	...	„ „		.....					1,900	0	0
1 Silver-gilt Mug		„	„	583	0	at 25				910	15	0
13 Side glass Lanthorns	...	...	...	...			400	0	0			
1 Large square hanging do.		...	...	...			80	0	0			
1 Pair teak Couches with cushions and pillows				...			39	0	0			
										519	0	0
2 pairs marble Slabs	...	...	...	...			61	0	0			
5 large black wood Tables	...	...	...	...			291	0	0			
1 set jelly Glasses	...	...	...	...			30	0	0			
2 large Carpets	...	...	...	...			105	0	0			
1 pair Shade Stands	...	...	...	...			6	0	0			
1 pair large Looking-glasses		...	...	...			155	0	0			
										648	0	0
1 silver Bowl, weighing sicca weight 306-12-0, at 18 annas per sicca weight is	...	...	...	...						345	1	6
				Current Rs.	...	...				7,078	10	9

CALCUTTA; *April* 1760.

Errors excepted,

(Sd.) T. Z. HOLWELL.

527.—*Portuguese vessels not to be traded with.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 14.]

A Ship being arrived belonging to the Portuguese, ordered that publication be made, agreeably to the orders of the Court of Directors, that no Covenanted Servant or any person whatever under the Company's protection do carry on any trade with the Captain or others belonging to the said Ship under pain of having the Company's protection withdrawn.

528.—*Royal Prussian Bengal Company's Effects.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 21.]

Received a letter per *Onslow* from Mr. John Young, dated London the 18th July 1759, requesting we would take into our possession all the effects of the Royal Prussian Bengal Company, now in the hands of Messrs. Chanlay and Brontart, they having forfeited the trust he reposed in them in many cases, but especially in taking part with the Directors in a suit which they had commenced against him and them in Chancery for a Ship and Cargo.

529.—*Calcutta Ghauts. Duties at—*

[PROCEEDINDS, SEPTEMBER 8.]

Account of the annual duties of the following Ghauts, *viz.*:—

Ghaut Russa, within two hours from Calcutta	924 9 42		
Deduct charges for servants, &c.	297 10 15		
		626 15 27	
Ghaut Coonch Poocarry, within three hours	118 8 64		
Deduct charges for servants, &c.	52 11 48		
		65 13 16	
Ghaut Pogladung, within three hours	130 12 24		
Deduct charges for servants, &c.	35 15 3		
		94 13 21	
Ghaut Cowrapoocarry, within three hours	64 8 23		
Deduct charges for servants, &c.	35 15 3		
		28 9 20	
Ghaut Coycalley, within three hours	602 11 30		
Deduct charges for servants, &c.	218 9 71		
		384 1 39	
		1,200 4 43	

530.—*Road Convicts' allowance.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 3.]

The Board likewise taking into consideration the great distress of the unhappy people sentenced to the roads at a time when provisions of all kinds are very dear, and no sustenance allowed them, agreed they be allowed Rs. 1-8 each per mensem for their sustenance.

531.—*Travelling expenses to Patna.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 3.]

Agreed Mr. McGuire be allowed C. Rs. 800 for his way carriage to Patna, with which he is to account with the Buxey for whatever expense for Boats he has been on his account.

532.—*The Zemindars of Magurah.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 6.]

Santose Roy and other old farmers of the new lands send in a petition to the Board representing that, having been Zemindars of the Pergunnah Magurah, they borrowed a large sum of money on its account for the rents and annual revenues; relative to which there are complaints lodged against them in the Cutcherry Court, and as they are now dispossessed of their lands and thereby incapacitated from fulfilling the engagements they entered into on account of those lands, they request we will refer their creditors to the Nabob's Durbar for redress.

533.—*The Burdwan Rajah absconds.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

The President informed the Board he has received no answers from the Rajah of Burdwan or Phousdar of Midnapore to the letters he sent them desiring their coming to Calcutta to settle the concerns of their districts, and that by the last accounts he received from Burdwan, the Rajah had absconded with his family through fear of being compelled to give up his country, and that he had sent proper persons to endeavour to convince him of our good intentions towards him, esteeming lenient methods the properest on our first entering upon those lands. The Board thinking the measures taken by the President extremely proper approve of them.

534.—*Captain White's march on Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 24.]

The detachment under your command is intended for taking possession for the Company of the countries of Burdwan and Midnapore, and this is to be done if possible without hostilities. Mr. Sumner therefore goes as Deputy from the Board to treat in case the Rajah desires it, and you are to make use of the forces under your command to such purposes as that gentleman may direct.

You will wait at Hooghly until joined by Mr. Nottchers with his detachment of Sepoys from thence, if the Rajah does not submit, you will proceed to Amboa in order to march from thence to Burdwan, but if he should come to terms, as I hope he will, before your leaving Hooghly, you will then march directly from thence to Midnapoor. The boats you will send back either from Hooghly or Amboa as may best suit your occasions.

You will please to keep a journal of all your marches, and if you have an officer who understands enough of drawing to describe the roads you pass, I would by all means have him put down the situation of every large village or other remarkable object.

You will be particularly careful not to let your people commit any disorders, or do the least injury to the inhabitants. If any are discovered acting contrary to this order, let them be punished with the utmost severity.

535.—*The River Hugly got worse.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 8.]

Captain Alexander Scott sends in a letter to the Board acquainting us that several parts of the River being much altered for the worse, requests we will order the Europe Commanders not to lade their ships at Culpee to draw more than 16 foot upon an even keel, and to take in the remainder of their cargo at Ingellie.

536.—*The Birbhum Zemindar fled from Nagore.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, JANUARY.]

The 28th of Jemed-ul-awul I received intelligence that the Beerboon Zemindar through the apprehension he was under of our troops had fled from his house at Nagore and gone with the utmost expedition to the hills. Major York with the troops is arrived successful at Nagore.

537.—*The Mahrattas, Burdwan Zemindar and Birbhun Raja unite.*

[FROM NAWAB KASIM ALI KHAN, JANUARY.]

From the Hurkaras I am informed that Shu Bhut Mahratta with 2 or 3,000 Horse and as many Foot has joined the Beerboon Rajah, and the Burdwan Zemindar act in conjunction with them.

538.—*Ballasore Merchants oppressed by a Gomastha.*

[FROM LATFUL NEHEMAN, THANADAR OF BALASORE, JANUARY.]

Some time ago the Merchants were wont to send iron, stone plates, rice and other things from hence to Calcutta and they brought tobacco and other things from thence to sell here, and therefore the merchants reaped a profit on both. Two years ago Mr. Burdett came here, and Jaggernauth was his Mutsooddy and brought a sloop for his own use, and intercepted the trade of the merchants from Balasore to Calcutta. The merchants were so much distressed that they relinquished trade, and many of them left the place, and transacted their business at Kunka, where they remain, and those that are here are greatly distressed, and are always making complaints. I have represented it to him, but he will not listen to it. He has left the factory and embarked on board a sloop, and has intercepted the merchant boats and will not permit them to pass.

539.—*Major White plunders a Fort in Burdwan.*

[FROM RAJAH TILLAK CHAND, JANUARY.]

The Burghes* troops plunder me, and Major White who went the Burdwan road, you will understand from the letter I before wrote you. After my arrival at Syn Parry, Major White came there from the limits (about) Beerboon and entered the fort† and seized the cannon, appurtenances and all the furniture belonging to the priests, and took Hyra Sing, the Killadar, prisoner and placed his own guards at the fort. From these proceedings my heart is under great apprehensions and am much surprised. I have great reliance on your favor, and am always ready at your command. What reason had the Major to create such disturbances, and occasion a loss to me in the districts.

* The native name of the Mahrattas is *bargi*.

† Lal Ghur?

540.—*Plunder of Bissenpur.*

[FROM DUMDERSING, RAJAH OF BISSENPUR.]

Your friendly letter acquainting me that by a letter from Ram Sunker, Gomastah at Sawra Mawhyn, you understand that my people demand custom upon lack and cloth, which he has purchased for the Company, and directing me to give orders to the people in my jurisdiction not to intercept or demand any duties at any of the places where the Company's gomastahs purchase goods, I have received and has much honored me. Wherever the Company purchase goods, my people have neither intercepted or demanded duties, and agreeable to what you write, I have wrote to all my people not to intercept or receive any duties on any of the goods which are purchased for the Company. My deplorable situation is too great for me to relate. Aynder Jyt Perghy before plundered my house of every thing, and took my country into his own hands, and I had not the least respect paid me there. I therefore dismissed him, and he carried me by force with him to Burdwan for his wages, and the zemindar of the jungles with the robbers and also Mohun Lall and Runjeet Surrop Narain, zemindar of Jaham went together and plundered Bissenpoor and surrounded the fort. But through the will of God and your wealth they were dispersed, and many men slain and wounded and took to flight and remains at Barrah Azary Bulya.

541.—*The Mahrattas plunder the ryots.*

[FROM RAJA TILLAK CHAND, FEBRUARY.]

Yourself and others are not unacquainted that myself and country has been greatly distressed by the violent proceedings of Mahrattas, and how they are plundering the ryots and destroying their houses and wounding the inhabitants, you must undoubtedly have heard from others.

542.—*The Mahrattas drive away the ryots.*

[FROM RAJAH TILLAK CHAND, FEBRUARY.]

If there had not been any disturbances by the Mahrattas and the Major, I should not have been deficient in my payments. The Mahrattas are still plundering and destroying my country. I endeavour to satisfy the ryots and others, but the disturbances of Mahrattas prevent their returning.

543.—*The Mahrattas in Midnapore.*

[FROM RAJAH RAJ NARAYN, FEBRUARY.]

My Hurcarrahs have brought me intelligence that Shah Bhut with his troops and equipage went from Midnapore to the southward.

And that 2,000 of his flying horse are at Puttaher Ghatta, two koss from Midnapore, the other side of the river towards southward, and Mr. Johnson is well in the fort at Midnapore, this you will understand. The successful troop which you have sent to Midnapore, remained three days at Cossijeerah Pergunnah, and I your subject, agreeable to your orders, and the direction of the Commanding Officer, supplied.

544.—*Shipping destination and cargo.*

[COURT'S LETTER, SEPTEMBER 30, PARA. 8—12.]

The under-mentioned list contains the names of the ships, each of the burthen of 499 tons, taken into our service for the ensuing season, the several ports they are consigned to, and the times we propose to despatch them, if no unforeseen accidents prevent the same, *viz.* :—

"Tilburry"	Roger Mainwaring	Coast and Bay	The beginning of December next.
New ship	John Clements	St. Helena and China	
"Essex"	George Jackson	Coast and China and to call at Madeira.	Beginning of January 1762.
"Houghton"	Charles Newton		
New ship	Watkin Partington		
"Harcourt"	Richard Morrison	Bencoolen and China	
"Stormont"	Henry Fletcher		
New ship	Gilbert Slater		
New ship	George Stewart		
"Clinton"	Nathaniel Smith	Madeira and Coast and Bay.	
"Hardwicke"	Brook Samson	Coast and Bay	Beginning of February.
"Walpole"	Parson Fenner		
"Drake"	John Smith		
New ship	Thomas Pearce		
"Winchelsea"	Thomas Howe	Bombay and Bengal and back to Bombay. to call at Madeira.	The middle of March.
"Hector"	John Williams	Bombay	
"Prince of Wales"	William Roberts	Bombay	
New ship	John Allen		
New ship	Thomas Riddel		
New ship	Thomas Rovs	Bombay and China	

We are to observe to you in general, that all the said ships are taken up on the same freights, terms and conditions as those of last season.

According to the best calculate, we can at present form, our exports on the said ships, will consist of the following particulars :—

406	Bales of Cloth	For the Presidency of Fort St. George.
25	„ of Long Ells	
230	Tons of Copper	
	Lead and Iron for use only which may be about 40 tons of each article.	
1,336	Bales of Cloth	For the Presidency of Fort William.
125	„ of Long Ells	
300	„ of Broad Long Ells	
400	Tons of Copper	
	Lead and Iron for use only amounting to from 40 to 50 tons of each article.	
2,030	Bales of Cloth	For the Presidency of Bombay.
400	„ of Long Ells	
110	„ of Broad Long Ells	
540	Tons of Copper	
	Lead and Iron for use only which may amount to from 30 to 40 tons of each article.	
158	Bales of Cloth	For the Scindy market.
40	„ of Long Ells	
354	„ of Cloth	For the Bussora market.
230	„ of Long Ells	
60	„ of Long Ells	For the Gombroon market.
10	Chests of Treasure, some Iron stores and necessaries, the particulars of which cannot now be ascertained.	For the Presidency of Fort Marlbro.
610	Bales of Cloth	For Canton.
783	„ of Long Ells	
20	„ of Cambletts and Hairbines and from 500 to 600 tons of Lead.	

By the before going list of ships you will observe several of them are to call at the Island of Madeira to take in wine. We intend to direct our agents there to consign to our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort Saint George 430 Pipes, the proportion whereof for each Presidency will be mentioned in our next letters; we shall direct also 100 Pipes, to be laden on the Bombay ships for the use of that Presidency.

545.—*Frauds in the Fort.*

[COURT'S LETTER, SEPTEMBER 30, PARAS. 28—30.]

It is with inexpressible concern we observe from the enquiries you have made into the frauds committed in carrying on your fort works, by a combination of those employed upon them, of what great sums we have been plundered, at a time too when money was so much wanted for the service in general, not only at your but our other Presidencies which Mr. Holwell says (as appears upon consultation of the 15th May 1760)—"from the strongest presumptive proofs he apprehends will glaringly appear to amount at least to one-third of the whole charge to the month of December 1759."

It is true that upon your said enquiry, very large sums are evidently proved upon several persons, and a considerable part recovered, but at the same time we must observe that your enquiry and proceedings are too superficial, as we cannot imagine the Banians could, without the privity or even consent of their masters, be guilty of such gross frauds, and there is the greatest reason to believe that if you had gone deeper therein you might have found some of our own servants the principal plunderers, for it is impossible these iniquities could be carried on without the connivance and participation of the Pay Masters and Store-keepers, and it is extremely surprising that we should find Mr. Boddam's name mentioned in the account of your proceedings without any remark or enquiry made how far and in what manner he was concerned therein.

It seems very extraordinary that Captain Brohier and Mr. Louis should, upon their absconding, evade all your searches to recover them, as from letters which some of the former's friends here have received from him, he was then no farther off than Chinsura; could either Brohier or Louis have been secured, we apprehend you might have been able to have got to the bottom of this iniquitous affair, and which we strongly recommend if ever it shall be in your power to get them.*

546.—*Faithfulness to Treaties necessary.*

[COURT'S LETTER, OCTOBER 7.]

We cannot help observing that it is to the great regard the Company have always had to a faithful observance of their agreements, they have acquired and hitherto preserved a reputation with the Natives of India. We could have wished therefore the situation of affairs would have admitted keeping terms with Jaffer Ally Khan, that even the least handle for a pretence might not have offered to prejudiced people to make use of to throw any reflections upon this transaction.

547.—*Madeira Wine to be paid for.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 23, PARA. 29.]

The situation of the Company's affairs requires every advantage to be taken that can produce a profit, and unless we can find it as well worth while to send Madeira Wine to India as other Merchandize, we must discontinue such consignments. If therefore you expect any

* Attempts were made to throw the blame on the Banians, but the Court declared:—"We expect and positively direct, that if our servants employ Banians or black people under them, they shall be accountable for their conduct and make good whatever the Company may be wronged of by such Banians or black people."

future supplies we positively direct that no part be distributed to the President, the Council or any other persons whatsoever without their paying for it, but that it be disposed of in the following manner, *viz.*, you are to set apart so many pipes for the use of our Covenant and Military servants as you shall think sufficient, and make a division thereof in such manner and proportions among them as you judge reasonable and proper, which is accordingly to be delivered on every person's paying for the same the full amount of the prime cost including all charges together with an advance thereon of 20 per cent. at least, all the rest of the wine is to be sold at public sale, for the most it will fetch putting it up at 20 per cent. advance upon the prime cost and charges.

548.—*Scarcity of grain—grain to be purchased.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 20.]

The scarcity of grain in the place being at present such as to distress the poorer sort of people in the greatest degree, in order therefore to relieve the wants of the poor, the Board propose sending a sum of money to the markets in the country for the purchase of a quantity to be sold at an easy rate, and Baboo Huzzirimull offering to advance a quarter of whatever money we resolve to send, and to take the management of purchasing it.

Agreed we advance the Buxey 37,500 Co.'s Rs. which joined to Huzzirimull's quarter 12,500 makes up the sum of 50,000 Rs. which he is to advance Huzzirimull for that purpose. Agreed we write to the Chief of Council at Luckeypore, directing them to furnish all the grain they can procure until the beginning of October; the dearness of that article having reduced the poorer sort of people to great want.*

549.—*A Portuguese Writer for the Accounts.*

[COMMITTEE OF NEW LANDS, JULY 30.]

The Committee observing that numerous and prolix accounts come in from the different quarters of the Company's acquisitions, and that for perspicuity's sake it will be necessary to have them digested in proper books.

* The authorities also wrote to Kasimbazar and Dacca for further supplies.

Agreed the accomptant of this Committee be allowed a Portuguese Writer to assist him in transcribing the same and other necessary business.*

550.—*Hospital Bill.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 24.]

The Surgeons of the Hospital deliver in a bill of clothing for the use of the sick in the Hospital, amounting to Co.'s Rs. 5,358-12-0, which being passed.

Ordered the Buxey to discharge it, and the amount to be entered after this consultation.

551.—*An Undertaker's Bill for Mourning.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 24.]

The undertaker sends in a bill for mourning of the Church on account of the late King's decease, which being attested by one of the Chaplains and amounting to Co.'s Rs. 253-0-6.

Ordered it to be paid by the Buxey.

552.—*The Mahrattas in Cuttack.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 17.]

From the southward Shubut, the Mahratta Chief at Cuttack, obstinately continues his pretensions to the Midnapore Province, as well as his demands for the Chout, and although he pretends a desire to accommodate matters in an amicable manner, yet it is much to be feared from the known treacherous disposition of that caste of people, that if they can find an opportunity they will attempt to send plundering parties into Bengal. The present state of our forces is as follows:—

At Patna.—Four Companies of Military and two Battalions of Sepoys.

At Burdwan.—One Company of Military and one Battalion of Sepoys with three independent Companies.

At Midnapore.—Two Companies of Military, one Battalion of Sepoys with three independent Companies.

At Calcutta.—Five Companies of Military and one Battalion of Sepoys.

* At that time and for 50 years afterwards there were few Natives qualified even as copyists. The Portuguese were consequently the Keranis of the day.

At Chandernagore.—The detachment of the Regiment and one Battalion of Sepoys.

At Cossimbazar.—One independent Company of Sepoys.

At Chittagong, Dacca and Luckeypore.—One Battalion of Sepoys.

From which statement it appears we shall have a sufficient force (besides that which is mentioned in the above letter from Fort St. George to be coming here on the "Futty Salam") is not only to act upon the defensive but undertake what expeditions may be esteemed most effectual for preserving the tranquility of the country.

The proper step to prevent the Mahrattas from committing their usual ravages in Bengal will be to carry the war into their own country.

Agreed therefore that we set on foot an expedition against Cuttack, and that we write to Mr. Hay to consult with the Nabob, and learn from him the rents of the country lying between Jellasore and Cuttack, and what parts he will be willing to assign to the Company to defray the expenses of such an expedition, which can hardly fail to complete the ancient possessions of the Subahs of Bengal, and make a large addition to the revenues.

553.—*Nunkumar a traitor.*

[NO. 140, FROM NABOB CASIM ALI CAWN, FEBRUARY 24.]

Letters in the Persian Department.

I have before wrote your Excellency concerning the contents of the letters I had intercepted of Nuncoomar's, that he had carried on a correspondence with our enemies; that I had made him prisoner and was examining his papers. On an examination thereof I find that he corresponded with the Shahzadah's people, Coingar Khan and Sree Bhut; Nuncoomar has also endeavoured to detriment the affairs of your Sirkar and the Company's. He is therefore undoubtedly culpable, and had it been of such a nature as to come under the tenor of our laws, he would not have escaped unpunished.

554.—*Jaffir Khan's jewels to be sold by Jagat Set.*

[NO. 156, TO JAGAT SET, MARCH 2.]

Some time ago Meer Mahomed Jaffer Khan Bahadur deposited all his jewels in the factory at Cossimbazar, at this time agreeable to the Nabob's orders I have sent for them, and in twenty days they will be sold, for this reason I shall trouble you to send a person on your part to purchase such as he may think proper and acquaint the merchants at Moorshedabad of it (their sale) that they may come here and make purchases.

555.—*Midnapur and the Mahrattas.*

[NO. 222, TO SHRI BHUT, MAHARATTA GENERAL, APRIL 11.]

Your friendly letter with assurances of friendship and acquainting me that Mha Bhut Jung annexed the chouth of Midnapore to that of Cuttack, and at the same time directing me to give it up and re-call the people that are now there, I have received. It is true, his Excellency gave up the chowth of Cuttack to put an end to the disturbances, and where you have manager I have no business; but Midnapore has been a long time independent of Cuttack. The Phousdars and Collectors went from Moorshedabad, received the revenues and forwarded it to the city. At this time His Excellency has added it to the Company for the maintenance of the sepoys. I am surprised you should write concerning this affair without enquiring properly into it. It is necessary for our friendship that agreeable to former customs you remain in your own country. I cannot act contrary to reason, if you do, I shall not be backward or negligent. You are a sensible man and therefore act in such a manner as will make no breach in our friendship.

556.—*Zemindars' oppression and the Telingas.*

[TO NAWAB ALY KHAN.]

Your gracious letter acquainted me that as twenty-two thousand and some hundred Rupees on account of the Pawgah first fruits of Radshy were coming on boats some Tellingers carried it by force to the Company's Factory at Cossimbazar for the Company's expenses, and therefore desire I will write to Mr. Batson, the Chief of that Factory, I have received, has highly honored and much rejoiced me and understand the contents. The deceitfulness of the zemindars no person is so well acquainted with as yourself. He has told you that the Company's people have carried away the money or the first fruits. At this time by a letter from the said gentleman I understand the zemindar has acquainted him that he had prepared near one lakh on account of the Company and that Roy Royan's people came and carried it away by force. This is the deceitfulness of the zemindar, but in consequence of your directions I have wrote to the said Chief to receive the money in whatever manner it is thought proper to pay it. Do you therefore make no delay in the payment. At this time I understand that the said Roy Royan has imprisoned the managers of the Radshy zemindar and

appointed others. The Company's assigned money is paid from Ranee Bhowanny's zemindary. By changing the managers the collecting the money will be delayed. Therefore I request you will order Roy Royan to re-instate the former managers and then no delay will attend it.

557.—*Robberies near Luckipore, thieves fired out of a cannon's mouth.*

[TO NABOB CASIM ALY CAWN.]

At this time Mr. Billers, Chief of Luckypore Factory, is arrived here, and has informed that that Pergunnahs about Luckypore for want of capable commanders are ruined; that thieves and robbers and wicked men commit every violent acts of thieving, &c.; that to this pitch it is now arrived that they come to the houses of the weavers, who have concerns with the Company and inhabitants, break into their houses and plunder them; that the Company's people have taken one of the leaders and imprisoned him; that Munwar Sing, zemindar, wrote a letter to Mr. Middleton, relating to the above affairs, and a paper concerning the Pergunnahs I have received, and a copy thereof I enclose for your perusal, from which your Excellency will understand all the news. Imagine that each Pergunnah has three masters, and that they produce their sunnuds and require assistance from the Chief. Now I do not know to which your Excellency is inclined. I am ready to settle your Excellency's affairs and assist the tenants and managers. I look upon it advisable to appoint a Phousdar for those Pergunnahs from the Court and to bring all the Pergunnahs into one, then every one thereabouts can appear or attend, and a camp will be stationed there and root out the wicked and turn out the disaffected and robbers, and the tenants will then have proper justice, and according to this application I can give them assistance. Your Excellency will send a Perwannah to Turab Ally Khan and other transaction of your affairs to threaten Munwar Sing and give orders to the Phousdar at that place (about Luckypore) to fire off the mouth of a cannon the leader of the thieves who was made prisoner that others may be deterred.

558.—*Battle of the English with the Burdwan Raja and Faquirs.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 5.]

Yesterday the President received the following letter from Captain Martin White from Camp at Battassy ka baug, dated December the 29th:—

HON'BLE SIR,—I make no doubt but report will bring you the news of an action I have had with the combined forces of the Burdwan Raja Missery Khan, Dundar Sing, the faquirs, and a party from Beerboom at the pass of the river between Burdwan and Sangotgola.

The cause and progress of the affair was this:—On the 25th I wrote to the Raja for ten thousand Rupees and then informed him of my knowledge of an accommodation between him and us. I gave him the strongest assurances of my care of his people and country, but told him I must of necessity pass near his capital at the ford at Sangotgola. He sent me a vakeel to insist on my going back, and that he would send the money to me; but I sent him word that it was impossible for me to return, and that my proceeding would be by no means injurious to him. He sent me word that he could not depend on my promise, and that his troops and allies would dispute my passage. I, however, proceeded to the banks of the river and encamped at noon on the 27th. I then sent a man to the Raja to tell him again that I had your directions to befriend and protect him, and that I only wanted the money upon a bill on the Company.

His head Harcar was sent over to me to learn these truths from my mouth, and on his return the Raja ordered the money out of the treasury and was going to send it me, but for Missery Khan and the other heads of the troops, who seized on the money and put guards over the treasury.

The head Harcar returned and told me this as well as several other secrets very useful to me, which I got from him by dint of money and some rum, and yesterday while I was viewing the pass and making the road to it, I wrote to know their ultimate resolution that I might know whether to consider them as a friend or foe. Upon this there was an officer of distinction sent over to speak to me, and after having heard that part of your orders to me concerning the Raja, he desired I would send my Sircar to receive the money. I accordingly sent him with the officer, and they both returned and told me they would not send me a farthing, unless I either returned back or took the road to Cutwa; the same officer by dint of that infallible intelligence told me they had resolved on preventing my junction with Major Yorke, and that as they had got notice of my having been to view the pass, they were going to order all their guns and troops there at night in order to obstruct me; that there were ten guns there already and they were going to send twelve more.

My orders from you must have been considered by them as in the light of cowardice, and my pacific disposition only served to increase their insolence. Join Major Yorke I must at all events, since I had notice of the arrival of the Mahrattas, and here was but this alternative either to risk an action or return with dishonour and dis-

grace. On the former I determined and the instant gave orders for the troops to march. I had the satisfaction to see a very pleasing emulation in the whole party from the first to the last, and even the very coolies seemed sensible of the insolence of these people, and vied with each other who should the most effectually promote revenge. In thirteen minutes the tents, &c., were struck and everything in motion by 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The officer in the mean time returned and I soon saw their army in motion towards the pass to oppose our passage. The part of the bank where I was to descend was almost perpendicular, and therefore required some time to cut it. During this time I brought up the guns and cannonaded the enemy across the river, while the front Sepoys were crossing over under this cover, and I soon found the whole over without much difficulty.

They took possession of a large village on our left, but a few grape and the left wing of Sepoys soon dislodged them with great slaughter. The sand was very heavy for the cannon, which now was drawn by coolies to my great surprise, but on getting up the bank we found ourselves on a fine extensive plain, where the guns did good service. Before 6 o'clock we drove them out of their entrenchments, encamped in their place, took ten pieces of cannon from six to two pounders, and a great deal of useless plunder, which the sepoys, coolies, &c., made their property. All the officers agree with me in opinion that there are above 500 killed dead on the spot, and of course double the number wounded. I did not lose a man, but had two Europeans and nine sepoys wounded. The guns I have dismounted and nailed them, because I had neither cattle nor time to take any of them with me.

Immediately after I had encamped I wrote a letter to the Raja, desiring him to stay in his house and rest in safety, for that notwithstanding what had happened I would by no means do him any injury, unless he gave me fresh provocation; that there was yet a probability of his being on terms of friendship with the English, but that he must learn from this never to prescribe rules for our conduct in future. I accordingly marched at 5 o'clock this morning in order to remove their fears, but on the road round the town where I was obliged to pass, I was informed by the Harcars that Raja and all were gone out of the town and fort, and that there were about seventy guns in the latter, without a soul to take care of them. I now know the road and I believe the method how to take that place were it ever necessary; but at present, as I only found myself obliged to make use of force to clear my way, I passed the fort and town without going into either. I posted safeguards to protect the people and their property, and upon the whole, Sir, I find a self inward approbation with what has passed. This day I have two letters from the Major at Boodagaum about 30 coss hence. He informs me of the arrival of Mahrattas at Noora Cotunga, the Beerboomers at Aundara, and that a party of 2,000 Mahrattas had been detached to Dackborry on the road between the Major and Burdwan. He mentions the probability of my coming up with that party before they know of my coming, but this action, together with the flying party before me, will inform them of my approach, and I make no doubt give them cause to fear attempting an engagement. I have wrote the Major that I march that way as I am informed it is both the nearest and best way, and I think if they do not move before my arrival, there is a chance of my paying them a visit the last day of this year.

The road this whole day's march was covered with hackeries, baggage, etc., all of small value, the most considerable booty is a number of letters, some from the Shahzada, which I shall give to the Major, and which may give him some useful intelligence. I have desired him to give me notice of the motions of the enemy; and that if he should apprehend me in any danger to march and meet me. This reason will teach him no doubt before receipt of my letter. To-morrow I have promised to write him.

All the officers with me agree that there was at least 10,000 men in arms against us yesterday, and I very truly hope and it is my opinion this may be attended with some good consequences. If you had good terms from the Raja before, this may give cause to make them better. I hope you will make him pay for the ammunition that was expended yesterday, which was pretty considerable.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO MAJOR CARNAC.—Captain White with his detachment being reduced to the necessity of coming to an action with the Raja of Burdwan, engaged him on the 29th ultimo so successfully that we do not apprehend any thing further to oppose his progress towards Major Yorke who, when we last heard from him, was within a few days march of Beerboom. This force when joined will, we doubt not, be sufficient to prevent the princes entering that part of the country, and we hope will prove the means of his being brought to a decisive battle either with you or Major Yorke.

TO THE GENTLEMEN OF THE COMMITTEE IN MADRAS FROM THE CALCUTTA SELECT COMMITTEE.—Major Yorke with another party and a detachment of the Nabob's troops has taken possession of the capital of Beerboom,* the Rajah having abandoned it and made his escape into the woods, which we hope will prove the means of that country being properly regulated and subjected to the Subah.

559.—*The Nabob not paying his Troops they become mutinous.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 19.]

FROM MAJOR CARNAC, NEAR FUTWA.—I cannot too often repeat, gentlemen, the extreme difficulties we here labour under through the inability of, or want of disposition in, the new Nabob to pay off the troops. Whatever may be the reason he has as yet made very little progress in removing the grievance which was one of the principal causes of the displacing his Predecessor.†

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* Nagore.

† Major Carnac with difficulty and after four days' work succeeded in preventing their mutinying and marching to Murshidabad: the fact being the men had not been paid by the Nabob for a long time; they themselves and their horses were consequently starving.

560.—*Midnapore invested by the Mahrattas.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 28 AND FEBRUARY 9 & 10.]

The President lays before the Committee the following letter from Mr. John Johnstone, dated Midnapore House January the 26th :—

"Surrounded by a numerous army without a friend to help us you "may guess the fate of this party without a speedy relief by Major "Yorke or White."

Resolved that in consequence of the above advice, Lieutenant Wilson be immediately despatched to Midnapore with a small detachment of Europeans and Sepoys and one field piece, which, with the force Mr. Johnstone has with him, we hope will be sufficient to disperse the Mahrattas and drive them from that country.

The President lays before the Committee the following letters from Mr. Johnstone dated the 3rd and 5th instant at Midnapore :—

I received and replied to your two favors both dated the 28th, and have just now the pleasure of yours of the 30th. Sorry am I to find that none of six letters despatched since the 26th have reached you representing our great distress and the number of the enemy. We have now left about four days' provisions at six chittacks of rice per day, and without any hope of a supply from any of the Zemindars or country people—the enemy's horse that can't be less than 6,000 and about 1,000 or 1,500 Buxerries possessing the whole country round and visiting us daily. Sewbut Rajaram, Cosal Sing, Jugul and several other Zemindars—these chiefs with a large body of horse lie within a coss, some parties with the plunder are stretched towards Benapoof six coss; perfectly well acquainted with the quantity of our provisions, they depend on the consumption of that to reduce us, rather than by force, in which attempts they have not had the success they expected—this inconvenience even when White's party does arrive (which admits of much doubt with me) will still subsist, as the people with their cattle and goods are all gone away, nor dare they return while the enemy's horse remain in the country. Rajaram proclaims our weakness at Calcutta, and boasts and bullies among the Zemindars of the mighty feats he is about to do. The party you have sent I must hope is as strong as you could make it. I could heartily wish it had been conducted by Mr. Wilson or some other of experience and capacity sufficient for a command of such consequence, and I believe I may venture to say both Nollikens and White would be better pleased to obey than command. Permit me to request that Mr. Wilson if possible or some other senior to Mr. Nollikens may be sent to take the command, the troubles in these parts are but beginning, nor can it be imagined Rajaram will quit a place, whose advantages he knows so well, while any rents can be collected; and if I should venture to propose Major White's return thither, as the most speedy and prudent method to secure this country, expel the Mahrattas, and reduce the Zemindars—attribute it not to timidity, but consider it as the result of

my maturest reflection on the present state of affairs here. Our stores of every kind are near expended, and no possibility of recruiting them but from Calcutta. Judge of our situation if not speedily assisted—our people at six chittacks of rice these two days past, my own sufferings though great I forbear to mention, while there remains any way of acquainting you of our situation shall not fail to do it, and must request you will forward Harcars to me as the surest way. Bahader Sing proves as great a traitor as the rest, and refuses to march to join Mr. White, this is of a piece with his former behaviour, indeed I fear White will not be able to join us.*

From Mr. Johnstone, *Midnapore House 8th February*, 1761.

By great good providence on your first advice of Subut's march from Mungheer, I advanced money for rice, &c., but by the dilatoriness of the dewan and other pretexts, I was not supplied with above a third of my order and of my rice only, till two days before we were surrounded, and from that day till last night we have received only about 6 maunds from Mooteram Khan our pretended friend at Karangur, however, by parsimony and fair words we have subsisted above 300 people daily, and have still left for some days. Two days after the enemy were dislodged from the tank, they thought proper to decamp from before us, and have ever since lain a good distance in the night, visiting us daily with their horse, the 5th they made their last effort with all the Sepoys and Buxerries they could assemble and took possession of the houses and walls that surrounded ours, from which places our sepoys having sallied out dislodged them and killed and wounded of them 10 men. The night after I despatched 85 sepoys to join Lieutenant White at Shawpoor, which they happily effected; 200 horse sent after them by the enemy not daring to attack them. If we can believe the reports we hear, Subut is gone towards Ballasore with part of his troops and all the plunder. The party that remains is commanded by Bhyro Pundit and Rajaram with Cossal Sing and Futtey Sing who both deserted us the second day. This news seems probable, as since the day they decamped, we have not seen a third of the force there appeared before, and I flatter myself our party is strong enough for these wherever we can join them. It will appear by and bye which of the Zemindars have joined and been most active in assisting Rajaram: this is certain, we owe them no favor, every soul but our own people having deserted us from the first day. The sepoys in general have behaved with courage and constancy, every man fighting after his own fashion, firing at all hazards, but never keeping together; however, they have put up with the small allowance of 6 chittacks of rice only per day, with a cheerfulness I never expected to meet with on the like occasion from Bengal recruits, and claims my just acknowledgments.

Tho' my best care and tenderness has been employed in dressing and assisting the sick and wounded, yet alas! we have lost three for want of more skill. Several of our men are now seized with the small-pox, which makes me still more wish for

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* Johnstone was at this time besieged 14 days in the Midnapore fort by Subut at the head of the whole body of Mahrattas.

the arrival of the assistant you have been so good as to despatch, as there is no possibility of forwarding any of them to Calcutta for want of coolies, &c.

I am informed that all the Zemindars have sent their vakeels to Rajaram: their neglect of us seems a proof of it. The Shawpoor Naib carried things farther with Lieutenant White than with me, sending a messenger to tell him he would oppose his entering that town. A time I hope will come when these petty upstarts will know their own impotence and proper bounds.

561.—*Shah Alum's mother's letter.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 17.]

Translation of a letter from Nawab Zeenut Mahal, mother of Shah Alum to Shah Alum.

The King of Kings is arrived at the Killa. To this day which is the 20th of the month Rijjib, I have frequently visited the King of Kings. He expects your arrival and is impatient for it. He has given me great encouragement in assuring me that he remains but for Shah Alum, and his word may be depended on. My son, be assured that on your coming everything will be concluded. When I desired the Shah to send some token of favor to Shah Alum, he replied: I before sent a Sirpache, &c., but he did not come: to repeat it is not proper. It is better that Shah Alum come himself then I will put his country into his hands and depart. Tincour Shah has given me marks of his affection more than I can express, and he too desires most earnestly that you may arrive soon, but he says, that he understands some ill advised people will not let you come, just as at this place ill advised people say many things to the King of Kings, but he pays no regard to them, and waits for the King. God forbid (says he) that Shah Alum should suffer himself to be led away by the advice of ill designing men, and delay coming: This will not be well: we are faithful to our engagements. All this trouble that we have taken upon ourselves is for the sake of Shah Alum Bahadre: let him by all possible means come hither speedily. My dear son, how long will it be before you come? This is the time, and it is expedient and necessary that you come immediately. If the Shah (which God forbid) should be so pressed as to depart, fresh difficulties will fall out. Aga Reza is arrived with letters from you to the Shah, and for Tincour Shah, as also for Zeen Begum. I have read all these letters in the presence of the said persons. They said we will send

letters to invite Shah Alum, but your letters will have a greater effect if you invite him. My son, if you find anything in those parts worthy your choice, wash your hands of this place.

P. S.—For God's sake! I beg you will send Bahadre Ali your servant to me, as I have no life left.

562.—*Terms proposed by the French for the surrender of Mahi.**

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 24.]

ARTICLE 1ST.—The exercise of the Roman Catholic religion shall not be disturbed in any shape, all the churches and chapels are to be preserved from all insults, and the Padres shall have leave to exercise their functions unmolested. Granted, (*e. i.* by the English Commander.)

ARTICLE 2ND.—The garrison to march out with the honors of war, drums beating, colours flying, each man a ball in his mouth,† four field pieces, with one mortar and twelve rounds, to march to Tellicherry, accompanied by a detachment of English, and thence to be embarked on board of a ship for the Island of Bourbon, at the expense of the English.

ARTICLE 4TH.—All persons, Civil and Military, as well soldiers white as black, shall have their moveable effects and domestics preserved without molestation, and the English are to place safeguards for the security thereof as they may desire. Granted, understanding it to mean wearing apparel and household furniture.

ARTICLE 9TH.—The French factory at Calicut shall be suffered quietly to enjoy the privileges of neutrality observed there. Granted.

563.—*Letter from Shah Walli Khan.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MAY 20.]

Translation of a letter from Shah Walli Khan, Vizier of the King of Kings, to the Commander of the English Forces, dated 4th Shaban or 11th March.

Accordingly to the most great, sacred, high and sublime command of His Majesty the King of Kings, glorious at Jemshud, to whom monarchs pay adoration it is decreed, that the noble and exalted in rank, the Ameer of the Great Ameers,

* This surrender of Fort Mahi and its dependencies on the Malabar Coast was made to R. Hodgsly, the Commander-in-Chief of Tellichery, and General Munro.

† Sic in orig.

Chief of the highest of Nobles Khwoja Uzmuttoolla Khan Bahadre having received his despatches from the enlightened presence is proceeding to that place to bring the King Shah Alum. And it has been directed that an enquiry be made into the provinces of those parts, Bengal, &c. It is required that the Nazims of those provinces acknowledge the noble person as one of the trusty Ministers of the stirrup which reaches the heavens and brushes the skies. The said noble person represented to His Majesty that a Colonel is appointed Chief on the part of the English, and attends on the person of the King Shah Alum, doing service with his life and fortune. In consequence of the representation of the Noble Person, he (the Colonel) became the subject of the Royal praise and applause, and let him conceive hopes of grace and favor from His Majesty, and be it known unto him that it is required of him upon the arrival of the Noble Person to dismiss the King Shah Alum, with all due honors, together with the treasure of Bengal, and a suitable force, to the Royal Palace at Shahjehanabad that he may be an ornament and splendour to the Throne of Hindostan, forasmuch as the King of the Kings of the earth (to the hoof of whose steed which touches the heavens we have devoted our lives and fortunes) both conferred the Crown and Throne of Hindostan upon him, and both constituted the Prince his son Regent and Administrator of the Empire, and both sent the writings of the Treaty, and Agreement and Partition: and we have directed Shujah Dowla Bahadre to advance and escort Shah Alum, the king. Whenever the aforesaid Noble Person shall arrive in the sacred and high presence, at that time he (Shujah Dowla) shall march to the banks of the Caramnassa with an escort. In every respect let the King Shah Alum be treated to his satisfaction, and the imperial favor shall be the recompence, for as much as the abilities of that friendly person (the Colonel) have received the royal approbation. From the Imperial presence this command is issued. We confer the authority and direction of the affairs of these districts on our part and on the part of Shah Alum, on him (the Colonel) let him attend with diligence and zeal to the affairs of those districts, and let him know that to satisfy the Noble Person is to satisfy us; neither let him deviate from the counsels and measures of the Noble Person, and let him always represent to the enlightened Court, the state of that place and be assured that the power which daily increases is propitious to him. Written on the above date.

564.—*Instructions to Lally by the French East India Company.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MAY 29.]

An extract from General Lally's instructions given him by the French East India Company.*

The Sieur de Lally is authorized to destroy the fortifications of maritime settlements which may be taken from the English. It may be proper to accept Vizaga-

* These with other papers were intercepted when the English army was before Pondicherry, and as they were of "a pretty singular nature," some instructions from His Majesty of France and the French East India Company, copies were sent to the Bengal Government by the Government of Madras.

patam by reason of its being so nearly situated to Bimlipatam (a Dutch factory) which in that case would be enriched by the ruins of Vizagapatam; but as to that as well as to the demolishing of all other places whatsoever the Sieur de Lally is to consult the Governor and Superior Council of Pondicherry, and to have their opinion in writing, but notwithstanding he is to destroy such places as he shall think proper, unless strong and sufficient arguments are made use of to the contrary, such for example as the Company's being apprehensive for some of their settlements and that it would then be thought prudent and necessary to reserve the power of exchange in case any of them should be lost, nevertheless if the Sieur de Lally should think it too hazardous to keep a place, or that he thought he could not do it without too much dividing or weakening his army, His Majesty then leaves it in his power to act as he may think proper for the good of the service.

The Sieur de Lally is to allow of no English settlement being ransomed, as we may well remember that after the taking of Madras last war, the English Company in their Council of the 14th July 1747 determined that all ransoms made in India should be annulled; in regard to the English Troops both officers and writers belonging to the English Company, and to the inhabitants of that nation, the Sieur de Lally is to permit none of them to remain on the coast of Coromondel, he may if he pleases permit the inhabitants to go to England and order them to be conducted in armed vessels to the Island of St. Helena. But as to the officers and writers belonging to the India Company, as well as soldiers and sailors, he is to order them to be conducted as soon as possible to the Island of Bourbon, where it will be permitted for the soldiers and sailors, to work for the inhabitants of that place by a mutual agreement, one should avoid sending them to the French Islands to prevent their being acquainted with the coast as well as the interior parts of the island. It is by no means His Majesty's intentions that the English officers, soldiers and sailors should be ransomed, as none is to be delivered up but by exchange man for man, according to their different ranks and stations.

If the exchange of prisoners should be by chance settled at home, between the two nations (of which proper notice will be given to the Sieur de Lally) and that the Islands of Boubon should have more prisoners than it would be convenient to provide for, in that case it will be permitted to send a certain number to England in a vessel armed for that purpose.

No English officers, soldiers, &c., are to be permitted to remain in a place after it is taken, neither are they to be suffered to retire to any other of their settlements or to any neutral settlement. The Sieur de Lally is not to deviate the least from the above instructions and regulation, unless there should be a capitulation, which stipulates the contrary, in which case the Sieur de Lally is faithfully and honestly to adhere to the capitulation.

The whole of what has been said before, concerns only the natives of England, but as they have in their settlements, merchants from all nations, such as Moors, Armenians, Jews, Pataners, &c., the Sieur de Lally is to treat them with humanity, and is to endeavor by fair means to engage them to retire to Pondicherry, or any other of the Company's acquisitions, assuring them that they will be protected, and

that the same liberty and privileges which they before possessed among the English will be granted them. Among the recruits furnished to complete the Regiments of Lorraine and Berry's there are 300 men taken from Fisher's Recruits lately raised; and as it is feared there will be considerable desertions among these new recurits the Sieur de Lally may, if he pleases, leave them in the Island of France, where they will be safe from desertion, and may replace them from the troops of that Island.

565.—*French remarks on colonising the Mauritius.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MAY 29.]

Remarks on the French East India Company's instructions given to Monsieur Magon, one of the Directors, who was sent out Governor of the Islands of Mauritius and Bourbon, 24th May 1755.

They first recommend the division of lands into small parcels among such as choose to become planters, and to let each follow the bent of their genius, whether it be for tilling corn, breeding horses, bullocks, poultry, and for planting cotton or coffee trees; but for the advantage of refreshments to shipping, and to reduce the price of labor, they particularly recommend breeding carriage and draught beasts of all kinds.

Their next attention is directed to the cutting of wood, which it seems was formerly supplied by contractors, who, on account of the easy conveyance, no doubt cut that nearest the sea shores. The Company, looking on this practice as prejudicial to the defence of the Island of Mauritius, whose shore is in many places guarded against descents by the woods, positively forbid the cutting any wood there in future, and say—"There are two places which require the most immediate attention, the first is the shore between the North West Bay and the Bay of the Tomb (Baye du Tombeau). It would be more preferable to abandon the making of lime there after the ancient custom than to continue stripping the shore of wood in the neighbourhood of the port which is defended thereby. The second place is the adjacent country to the South East Bay, where there is a considerable yard or workhouse for cutting wood, it must be forbid (if it is not too late) that they do not strip the sea shore in the neighbourhood of that port, and render it as defenceless as they have done the North West Harbour; if the evil is begun it must be stopped. Mr. S. David has in that place a large carpenter's yard managed by the Sieur Routtier."

Speaking of barracks in one of the articles, the Company say:—

"At any rate, but particularly in that light which we regard the Island of Mauritius, whether it be to make it a receptacle of all the Company's military forces in India, or to lodge the recruits there a year or two, which are destined for the garrisons in India, that they may be disciplined, that their health may be preserved by the shortness of the passage, that they may at first be landed in an wholesome and temperate climate, where they may recover the fatigues of the voyage and accustom themselves by degrees to the heat, instead of transporting them at once into the burning and often unhealthy

parts of India, or lastly with a view of always having at the Mauritius forces which may be sent to India on extraordinary occasions, when succour cannot be expected from Europe, either through want of time to write for them, or prevention of their departure from France by enemies, it is certain that, in all these points of view, equally favorable to the preservation of the settlements in India, the good management of troops and money, that barracks are absolutely necessary at the Island of Mauritius. Frequent complaints have been made of the disorders which the soldiers commit when scattered at their liberty in different houses. It is impossible to prevent the licentiousness and unlucky accidents which happen, but by barracks; hitherto we have had but a small garrison at the Island of Mauritius, when it becomes more numerous all the inconveniences attending licentious soldiers are more to be apprehended. It may be added in favor of a numerous garrison at the Island of Mauritius, that it will be the readiest and cheapest method to people the Island, and to form a militia on the spot interested in its defence. At the end of a certain time, those who are willing to settle on the Island, may have their discharge on condition that they shall form a company of militia, which shall assemble from time to time and march when occasion requires. A good prison or guard house is not less necessary to hold the blacks, than the barracks for the soldiers, in keeping the Company's slaves under good management shutting them up by night, and forming good posts on the sea shore and in the interior parts of the Island, by means of a numerous garrison, it is probable that desertion may be prevented and the attempts of Madagascar Blacks, which are termed freebooters, may be guarded against. These slaves may then be bought without hazard, and all agree that they can be had cheaper and easier, and are more intelligent, laborious and sooner trained to all kind of work than those procured elsewhere. The inconvenience of too great a quantity of grain, and a scarcity has been successively experienced at the Island of Mauritius. To remedy it, instructions have been sent concerning the manner of preserving corn in Italy and in Africa; the form and dimensions of the ditches there used. The last works of the Sieur du Lamel, relative to stores, ventilators and the construction of granaries, have also been sent, you must inform yourself if any of the methods have been tried, and endeavor to introduce those best adopted to the nature of the grain necessary to be kept.

The Company, thinking the good of the service required that an entire jurisdiction over the blacks should be established, wrote to the Councils at the Islands to employ such means as were necessary to engage the inhabitants to make detachments against the blacks; they were promised 140 livres for every freebooter which they destroyed, but that recompence not proving a sufficient encouragement, Mr. Bouvet determined to offer a slave at the Company's price for every freebooter killed, which inhabitants approved of, and the Company have confirmed.

566.—*Remarks on the instructions to Count D'Ache.**

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, MAY 29.]

Article 10*th.*—Points out the operations for 1758, and supposing Madras or Fort St. David taken in 1757, advises the immediate attack of the remaining settlement, and the total expulsion of the English from the Coromandel Coast, which, in another place, the Company observe, is the first object of their attention, that their future views on that Coast may more readily take place; they also direct the destruction of Deveeotah, Ingeram, and the rest of the factories to the northward, as well as the infant settlement at the Negrais.

Article 13*th.*—Observes that there is still in India a better understanding between the Dutch and English than there is in Europe to the prejudice of France, and therefore little regard ought to be paid to their flag, if any British subjects or effects are found with them.

In another instruction for Count D'Ache, sent by del'Eguille on the 8th December 1757, it is said:—

Article 14*th.*—That should the operations in the River Bengal be attended with success, the conquered places may either be kept or the fortifications; civil buildings and ware-houses utterly destroyed. Should the latter plan be resolved on, not a factory ought to remain nor an English inhabitant (even those born in the country) suffered to reside in the province. This resolution, they observe, is the most effectual to establish their reputation on the Ganges; but they seem to recommend only the destruction of the new fort and the preservation of old Calcutta, on condition of a ransom and the observance of a strict neutrality for the future in Bengal. This the French seem most desirous of, but insist on ready money for the ransom and hostages for the performance of all agreements, since the English have publicly declared they will abide by no treaty of ransom. His Most Christian Majesty, in a letter of the 23rd January 1757 to Count D'Ache, instructs him not to leave an Englishman in any place that shall be taken, but to send away to St. Helena in cartel ships, or suffer to pass to England all

* These remarks were delivered by the French East India Company to the Count, who commanded the squadron destined to the East Indies towards the close of 1756; the French were to take or burn English vessels even in Dutch ports, though they belonged to neutral persons as Trincomali, Mergui, Acheen; the English settlements were to be taken at Sumatra, the English prisoners with the slaves to be sent to the Island of Bourbon.

free merchants and inhabitants not in the Company's service, but to keep prisoners all civil servants, officers and soldiers, and not set any at liberty unless exchanged against those of equal rank.

As to prisoners, they are all to be sent to the Island of Bourbon, and there kept in deposit till it may be thought proper to send them to France.

567.—*Expedition to Cuttack.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 17.]

The properest step to prevent the Mahrattas from committing their usual ravages in Bengal will be to carry the war into their own country. Agreed, therefore, that we set on foot an expedition against Cuttack, and that we write to Mr. Hay to consult with the Nawab, and learn from him the rents of the country lying between Jellasore and Cuttack, and what posts he will be willing to assign to the Company to defray the expenses of such an expedition, which can hardly fail to complete the ancient possessions of the Soobahs of Bengal and make a large addition to his revenues.

Sent the following letter to Mr. Hay at Patna, in consequence of this day's resolution.

SIR,—At a Select Committee held this day, the state of the country and the manner in which we should employ our forces after the rainy season came under our consideration.

From the advices we have had it is scarce to be doubted that the Mahrattas will enter the country and commit their usual ravages if no method is fallen upon to prevent them. We are of opinion that the most effectual step we can take for that purpose, and also to distress them and secure to ourselves tranquillity, will be to get an expedition on foot against Cuttack.

We therefore desire you will consult with the Nawab and learn from him the value of the rents of the country lying between Jellasore and Cuttack, and what part of it he will be willing to make over to the Company to defray the expenses of such an expedition, the success of which we have no reason to doubt, and which will not only secure to him the total ancient possession of the Soobahs of Bengal, but also be a considerable addition to his revenues, and a firm barrier against future invasions of the Mahrattas.

We are, &c.

(Sd.) THE COMMITTEE.

568.—*Diet money on Ship board.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 8.]

Received the following letter from the Select Committee of Fort St. George, dated the 17th September 1761 :—

GENTLEMEN,—We now send you two subalterns and thirty-three recovered men belonging to the companies of Colonel Coote's Regiment, already embarked for your Presidency.

We have agreed with Captain Gibson for their diet on the passage at the rate of 2 rupees per day for the Officers, and ½ rupee per day for each private man.

FORT ST. GEORGE, *17th September* 1761. } We are, &c., (Sd.) THE GOVR. &C. OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

569.—*Pachete Raja's property.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 8.]

For the increase of the expenses of the troops at Patna we can ask nothing of the Nawab, as we are obliged to support him with such a force as may be necessary for the defence of his country; we have, however, an opportunity of saving a part of it by ordering the detachment to march by the way of Pachete,* and restore the Raja of that place to the possession of his zemindary, for which he has the Nawab's sunnud, and in consideration of such assistance, he will engage to pay the Company a lakh of rupees for the expenses of the troops.

It is to be observed that the before-going computation includes pay as well as the extraordinary field expenses, and therefore not to be entirely reckoned as an additional charge; for the troops must be paid if they remain in garrison, and it is found by experience they are much more healthy in the field than in barracks, and as by the proposed situation of the two armies the province will be covered and secured on both frontiers, we think no risk will be run from the small force left in Calcutta and Burdwan, and that many advantages will arise from the total expulsion of the Mahrattas from Cuttack, particularly by the

* Pachete hill is near the Barrakur beyond Raniganj: the family of the Raja of it reckons in its genealogical line 60 generations. The hill is in a commanding position, and when Mir Kasim Ali was suspected of intending to retire to the Deccan, Major Adams was ordered to march there to intercept him.

increase of the revenues of Midnapore. It is therefore the opinion of the Committee that the two expeditions shall be set on foot in the manner before proposed.

570.—*Warren Hastings to be Interpreter to the Nawab.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 8.]

Colonel Coote acquainted the Committee that he apprehends, from several circumstances, that the Nawab has entertained a jealousy of his friendship, and as he is now going upon an expedition where he shall have frequent intercourse with him, and is very desirous of carrying on all affairs with harmony and unanimity, wishes Mr. Hastings to accompany him, as he is a gentleman that, both from his knowledge of the language and politics of the country, will interpret all consultations between the Nawab and the Colonel, and is thoroughly agreeable to both.

571.—*French prisoners to be English soldiers.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 11.]

To the gentlemen of the Select Committee at Fort St. George.

Monsieur St. Martin,* an Officer of the Free Company of French, having been saved from the Fattee Salam, we purpose returning him to the Coast in order to raise another Company of an hundred men from among the prisoners now remaining with you, to accomplish which we request your permission.

572.—*The Mahrattas to be driven out of Cuttack.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 11.]

The following is the letter sent by agreement of the Committee to the gentlemen of the Select Committee of Bombay:—

"GENTLEMEN.—The Bengal Provinces having suffered much from the incursions and ravages of the Mahrattas ever since they had possession of Cuttack, we have determined, in concert with the Nawab, to send a force to rout them from that place and restore that province to the Soobaship of Bengal, to which it by right pertains.

"It is about twelve years since the Nawab of Bengal, after a long and ruinous war with the Mahrattas, gave them an assignment upon the Cuttack province for receiving an annual stipulated sum on account

* Was this Claude Martin the founder of the Martinere? He landed in Calcutta a shipwrecked soldier.

of the *chout*. The Mahrattas, under pretence of collecting their share, usurped by degrees the entire possession of the province, and not contented with that, still continued to harrass the neighbouring parts of Bengal, and more particularly the provinces of Midnapore and Burdwan, which now belong to the Company.

"The routing them out of Cuttack seems to be the only effectual means of preventing their continuing these ravages. The execution we believe will not be very difficult, nor do we apprehend it can be attended with any bad consequences, but on the contrary will be a step towards giving a check to the overgrown and dangerous power of the Mahrattas, for which the civil commotions in their Government, by the death of Ballajee, offer a fair opportunity; and we wish that it suited the situation of your affairs as well as those on the Coast to render this attempt more complete by joining the Mogul Government in attacking the Mahrattas on all sides.

"The President has wrote to the King as well as to Salabut Jung and Nizam Ali to acquaint them of our intentions, and represent to them the benefit that will accrue to them from this diversion in their favor."

573.—*Slaves from the Mauritius.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 28.]

From Fort St. George.

As it is not to be doubted but Mr. Keppel is gone with a squadron of men-of-war and a considerable force to the French Islands, his reducing them by the month of January is more than probable, and as it is particularly recommended by the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors to procure as many of the slaves from thence as possible, it can be of no less importance to fetch back the Chinese artificers and others belonging to our settlements on the West Coast which Count D'Estaing carried from thence; we therefore think one of their ships, sent from your place in December, can run little or no risk of falling into the enemy's hands; she may carry the cargo of peas you provided for us, which will turn to a good account if sold at the Islands to the Agent Victualler of the squadron; she may from thence proceed to Fort Marlborough with the slaves, where she may arrive in the month of April, and if there be pepper sufficient, carry it on to China. If not, the Deputy Governor there may have orders to return her hither to us, from whence she may go to China with such red-wood and money as we may be able to spare.

574.—*A French Pilot to be deported.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 15.]

The Master Attendant acquainting us that Demetrius, the head pilot to the French at Chandernagore before the war, and who was made prisoner at the capture of Pondicherry, having taken service with the Dutch, whereby he will gain a knowledge of the river and be a dangerous man in case the French should make any attempt for a re-establishment in Bengal. Agreed a party of thirty men be sent down in the *Syren Snow* with a summons for him to surrender, and in case of refusal ordered to take and send him on board the *Warren* to proceed to England.

575.—*A Doctor's Bill for victualling Soldiers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 10.]

Mr. William Stuart (Surgeon at Cossimbazar) sends in his Bill for victualling the private men of His Majesty's 84th Regiment, who were sent there for the recovery of their healths, amounting to A. Rs. 1,551-10-8, ordered the Buxey to discharge it

576.—*Europeans to hold no office under Native Governments.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 13.]

Ordered public advertisement to be made that no Europeans will be suffered to hold any office or rent any district under the Country Government under forfeit of the Company's protection being withdrawn, and sent to Europe on the first ship.*

577.—*Natives molested by men in the dress of Sepoys.*†

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 7.]

The President represents to the Board that he has had frequent complaints made to him by the Talookdars and petty Zemindars adjacent

* This order was in consequence of constant disputes that took place between the European holders of land and Natives, complicating the Company's relations with the Native or Country Government; there was another order in the same spirit,—that to prevent loaferism and vagrancy, no European was to reside in the interior without a special license and security for their good behaviour; the same strict watch had to be kept over the Factory Gomastahs.

† At this period dakaity was very prevalent at Luckipore and otheplaces.

to the subordinate Factories, particularly Cossimbazar, Dacca, and Luckipore, setting forth that English Sepoys, or men who assume the name and dress of Sepoys, molest them in their business by interfering in disputes regarding their several rights or pretensions.

Agreed we write to the subordinates of Dacca, Luckipore, and Chittagong informing them of these complaints, and forbid in future their granting any negaubans or safeguards to the lands, persons, or effects of the country people, or concerning themselves at all with their disputes, but leave them to apply for protection or redress from their own Government.

578.—*The Calcutta Blacks petition against acting as arbitrators.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 14.]

The black inhabitants send in a petition setting forth the great hardship they labour under in being required to sit as arbitrators in causes at the Court of Cutcherry, as also in being liable to fines for non-attendance thereto, though often prevented by their own private or other material business.

579.—*A License for a Garden house.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 21.]

Mr. William Parkes acquainting the Board that he had purchased a garden house which he intended for the resort of the gentry of Calcutta, and requesting permission to have a license for making it a house of entertainment. The Board consents to grant his request conditionally.*

580.—*Jungle clearing in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 12.]

The Board being of opinion that clearing the town of all plantain trees, under-wood or any other kind of jungle, would be greatly conducive to the healthiness of the town and of the inhabitants. Ordered that the Surveyor be directed immediately to cut down all that sort of growth throughout the town and within the limits of the Mahratta ditch.†

* The condition was, it was not to be open in the morning, as the Board were afraid that it would be the means of keeping people from doing their duty. Boating and frequenting garden houses were the favorite recreations at that time.

† Tigers at that time infested the jungles on the site of the new Cathedral. While wild boars roamed in the Chowringi plain.

581.—*Ground rent of Calcutta to be doubled.**

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 19.]

The Collector lays before the Board an abstract of the ground rent of Calcutta within the Mahratta ditch, paying on beegahs 6,057-13-0 an annual rent of Rs. 17,744-12-1. This appearing to be upon an average less than three rupees per beegah, and it being judged by the present high value of ground and houses in Calcutta town that they may without the least difficulty or distress pay double that rent. Agreed that it be so levied in future to form a standing fund for assisting the Company in defraying the continual expense of public works, and as it appears that there are many charity lands held by different persons within the town of Calcutta who will not produce their titles, notwithstanding the public notice that has been issued. Ordered the Collector take possession of them, such to be delivered back where claims are well founded.

582.—*Fireworks prohibited in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 19.]

As the burning of fireworks within the bounds of Calcutta occasions frequent fires among the houses of the inhabitants, and at the same time endangers the magazines of powder in the town, the old Fort and at Perrins. Agreed that the custom be prohibited and the farm† abolished.

583.—*A Drunken Pilot.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 26.]

The Master Attendant being called before the Board and asked his opinion of the loss of the Dutch ship *Princess Caroline,* says that the man who hove the lead, John Valentine, confirmed the circumstances in the deposition and acquainted him that Edward Rein, the Pilot, was drunk during the time he had charge of the ship, and when she was run ashore on the Diamond, the largest and most remarkable sand in the river. That it, therefore, appears to him the ship was left in a place where no skilful

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* The ground was low, and it was thought just that the inhabitants should bear a proportion of the expenses for repairing roads, drainage, &c.

† For manufacturing fireworks.

and sober pilot could run ashore, and that he (Edward Rein) was highly to blame for keeping the ship under sail in the night, especially as the Master and Mates were much averse to it, and desired him to come to an anchor.*

584.—*State of Burdwan and Birbhum.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 27.]

A letter from Burdwan of the 24th acquaints us that very little rent was received last year from the Pergunnah Buggrey, and Indoo Sing (the zemindar) has paid no regard to any letters or tullub chits sent for his rents due for this, and therefore desires to know whether a party should be sent against him; his lands lie all round Chundercona. That the accounts of the Bazee Zameen already delivered in, including the ayma and chackeran, exceed eleven lakhs of beegahs, and that all possible diligence is employed to finish the whole for our inspection. That Mahomed Tuckee Khan, the Foujdar of Beerbhoom, has for some time past been entertaining troops and making all necessary preparations for taking the field, on which account (as it is surmised that from the reports of the Nabob's misunderstanding with the English, he meditates an irruption into Burdwan) he hopes it will not be unfavorably construed that he gives it as his opinion for strengthening the detachment with him by two or three more Companies of Sepoys, to replace those on command at Patchait and be prepared against accidents.

585.—*Reparation to be obtained from Burmese for Negrais.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 11.]

The Board judge that it would be very imprudent at this juncture to detach any body of European Troops to so distant a quarter as Meckley, but neither are they willing to lose so favorable an opportunity of contracting an alliance with the Meckley Rajah, as it may open a road to them for obtaining reparation from the Burmahs for the repeated ill-treatment of the Factory at Negrais.†

* The pilot was ordered to be imprisoned until a ship was ready to take him to Europe; this case was tried in consequence of a letter from the Dutch Governor at Chinsura.

† Six companies of Sipahis were sent to march from Chittagan for Munipur to "acquaint themselves with the strength and disposition of the Burmahs without committing hostilities." English Traders at that period had extended their operations to Tipura.

586.—*Hospitals not ventilated—a new one necessary.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 11.]

Finding great inconveniency for want of room in our Hospitals and from not having the benefit of a free and open air, agreed, till such time as the Hospitals can be built in the new Fort, that we build one near to Sumner's* with fell trees and covered with straw, under the direction of Captain Green, upon the same construction with those he has built at Ghyrotty, which are found to be extremely good and wholesome lodgings.

587.—*Gomastah's violence at Dacca and Luckipoor.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 14.]

Mr. Hastings states that time the Governor has desired him to lay before us a letter which he received in the month of June from one Serjeant Brejo, whom he sent up to Backergunge at the Nabob's request for the protection of that place, and requests it may be entered, as it may serve to show what occasion for complaint has been given by our Gomastahs at those factories. He further adds that Mr. Vansittart has received private intelligence that a party of Sepoys were sent to Sylhet by the gentlemen at Dacca on account of some private dispute, who fired upon and killed one of the principal people of the place, and afterwards made the Zemindar prisoner and forcibly carried him away.†

588.—*The Bisssenpur Rajah and Burdwan Ryots.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1.]

We received on the 19th and 23rd ultimo two letters from Burdwan, dated the 17th and 21st, the former desiring to be informed whether we meant the appeal to lay to the Board to comprehend all disputes

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* Near Kidderpore, it was called Sumner's gardens.

† The Chief and Council at Dacca wrote at this time in a state of towering indignation at the boats being stopped, and their trade and privileges interfered with by the Nawab's Agents, they ordered up Sepahis from Chittagong; but the Calcutta Council quietly replied, "it seems very probable from circumstances in Mr. Hastings' Minute, that the gentlemen's Gomastahs there have been the principal causes of these disturbances; there is reason to fear that Gomastahs and Agents have made use of very unwarrantable practices in their trade." The Council consequently countermanded the marching of the Sepahis.

whatever between ryot and ryot, ryot and ezarahdar, &c., &c., or only between possessors and proprietors for claims on sunnudee lands, also how far we think the right of the zemindar extends in giving away or alienating parcels of lands. The letter of the 21st acquainted us that he had just received a letter from the Beerbhoom Foujdar, advising him that he had got the Nabob's orders for taking under his charge the zemindaree of Bissenpore and Patchait, and should soon march to take possession of and settle these countries. That as his route to Bissenpore will lay through the Burdwan Pergunnahs, and from the waste of the cavalry prove detrimental to the collections,* he (Mr. Johnstone) desired to know if we thought proper to allow him a passage, also what orders we would choose to have sent to the two Companies of Sepoys at Patchait.

589.—*Firs to be had from Nepal.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1.]

Received a letter from Patna, dated the 21st October, acquainting us that there are no firs to be had in the Bettia country of any size; that they grow in the mountains near Nepal and may be had for cutting, but that they think they will by no means be adequate to the expense, besides the undertaking being very dangerous.

590.—*Lands Ayma and Chakerani in Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 4.]

Having maturely considered Mr. Johnstone's statement of the Sunnudee and Chakeran Lands of Burdwan. We now reply thereto, and acquaint him with the following resolution we have come to :—

All lands comprehended under the head of ayma, or held on the same terms for which regular and valid sunnuds have been produced and registered, we think should remain to the present possessors during their lives at the rate which they now pay in the jummabundee, but that those for which no sunnuds can be shown ought to be resumed and put upon the bazeeaft. That we would choose the other articles of bazee zameen, such as bromutter, debutter, &c., to be put upon the same footing with the ayma, that is to say, a tax equivalent to the malgoozaree paid by the aymadars should be

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* By spoiling the crops and driving away the ryots.

levied from all those who can produce sunnuds or prove a proper authority for holding their lands, and on the contrary those lands to which no right or title can be ascertained, should, in like manner, with that class of the ayma, be put upon the bazeeaft; but that in the transaction of this business we would have all due consideration paid to any objects of pity and compassion which may occur. That the amount of the difference which he has discovered in the chakeran should be included in the reduction made in March last, as the concealing of it appears to have been a designed fraud of the Mutsuddies and Mohurrirs; but regarding the further reduction of this article, we must leave it to be determined by him who is on the spot, as we are not thoroughly acquainted with the boundaries of the several pergunnahs or the nature of the business to be transacted; only we must desire, in case he should think such further reduction to be eligible, that he will be careful to leave no room for the business being distressed, or the quiet and safety of the inhabitants disturbed by a too great frugality. That as to the account of the tuncas, we are of opinion the full rents of the lands and villages which have been included in the sale should be paid into the Cutcherry by the ezarahdars, and the amount of the assignments paid to the holders out of the Cutcherry on the lands marked off and which were not brought to a sale, an advance of one anna per biggah might be collected for this year to ascertain the Company's right to a future resumption, and the next year they may be put up to sale as other raity lands. But the amount of the assignments on them we choose likewise should remain to the present proprietors of the respective tuncas during their lives, to be paid, however, in money out of the Sudder Cutcherry. That the nature of the causes in which we choose an appeal should lay to our Board, we meant to comprehend only those which he denominates sunnudee lands, the advertisement No. 2 therefore is the proper one to be made public. That regarding the village of Jamgaung we think the Rajah ought to demand the delivery of it from the Beerbhoom Foujdar, to which if he objects he will please to acquaint us with his reasons that we may transmit them to the Resident to settle the matter with the Nabob.

591.—*Surgeon's Examination.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 11.]

Mr. Peter Smith, Surgeon's mate in the army, being arrived from Patna, ordered the Secretary to direct Mr. Clement Crooke to call to his assistance one or more of the Surgeons of the Europe ships and examine Mr. Smith on his knowledge of his profession. And after such examination they are to report to the Board whether they esteem him properly qualified to be promoted to be a Surgeon to the army.*

* He was passed; at that period various men got into the medical service who were not properly qualified.

592.—*Manickchand's death.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 29.]

A letter from Dacca states that the Hon'ble Company's Dewan (Manickchand) died on the morning of this letter, and in consequence of his request to Mr. Cartier to protect his family and effects, he has set a guard of ten Sepoys on his house and ordered the doors to be sealed up. And as they apprehend he has died worth a large sum of money which the Government's people may be desirous to possess to the injury of his lawful heirs, they request the protection of the flag may be extended to the family of a man who has served the Company for upwards of thirty years with care and fidelity.*

593.—*A Country house for the President disallowed.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 40.]

Most certainly the purchasing Mr. Frankland's house for, as you mention, the refreshment of the Governor when the multiplicity of business will permit him to leave the town at the expense of Co.'s Rs. 10,000 is, notwithstanding your allegation to the contrary, a superfluous charge, and must, as in reason it ought be borne by the Governor at his own private expense; this is the more necessary and reasonable since the noble appointments settled upon the Governor by our directions last season, which are intended to take in all expenses he may be put to for convenience on the Company's account.†

594.—*The Country Languages to be encouraged, but the Translator not to be highly paid.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 46.]

We are very sensible of the importance of giving all due encouragement to our servants to make themselves masters of the country languages, but surely the annexing a salary of three hundred rupees

* The Government agreed to protect the family but not against any just demand of the Country Government.

† Notwithstanding this discouragement, the taste for country houses increased. Warren Hastings had one near Serampur, and his house at Belvidere was then in the rural solitude of Alipur.

a month to the post of Translator is too large an allowance, especially as it is given to one of our servants in the rank of a writer only, *viz.*, Mr. Charles Rogers, who, though we trust from your account, is a very deserving young man, yet, as we think the allowance in general too great, we shall leave it to you to make a reasonable abatement therein.

595.—*Cavalry Corps formed.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 50.]

We find you have formed two troops of European horse and a party of Hussars upon Colonel Cailland's representing the absqlute necessity of such a corps of Cavalry. As this is a heavy addition to our Military expenses, we hope the measure was not undertaken without, what is before observed, an absolute necessity.

596.—*Twelve months' notice before quitting the service.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 53.]

We expect the orders for our Covenant servants giving twelve months' notice of their intentions for quitting our service are strictly complied with, and they are not to be suffered to come away before the expiration of that term. We expect also and direct that, upon the expiration of the said twelve months' notice, they shall be no longer in the service.

597.—*Private information not to be sent of Political matters.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 57.]

We are sorry to observe that many informations concerning the Company's affairs have been sent to His Majesty's Ministers and other great men from our servants belonging to your and our other Presidencies, some of which, particularly upon the late transactions with the Dutch in Bengal, have much embarrassed us; we wont say that such communications are made with a view to lessen the authority of the Court of Directors, but they certainly have a great tendency that way. You are therefore to use all possible means for putting

a stop to this practice, and as the Court of Directors is the only channel through which Government receives all informations concerning the Company's affairs; if private informations therefore are sent from any of our servants or others under our protection, we shall deem such persons unworthy of the Company's service, and they shall be certainly dismissed whatever their rank or station may be.

598.—*Misunderstanding with the Dutch to be avoided.* *

[COURT'S LETTER, APRIL 2, PARA. 19.]

The Right Hon'ble the Earl of Bute, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having signified to us that there is reason to apprehend the Dutch East India Company extremely anxious at the situation of their affairs in Bengal may induce the States General to take such measures as may produce the most fatal consequences, and become perhaps the cause of a rupture between the two powers in those parts, if the utmost care and precaution be not used without delay to prevent it, that His Lordship therefore had the King's command to recommend to us in the most serious manner to contribute, as far as lies in our power, to put an end to the unhappy disputes which subsist at present between the two Companies. Since the preceding notification Lord Bute has further informed us that the King and the States General were desirous of having the disputes between the two Companies adjusted by Commissaries; the same has been accordingly agreed to on all parts: upon this, among other previous conditions, that assurances should be given on both sides to abstain from all *voyes de fait*, or acts of violence, whilst the Commissaries are discussing the respective pretensions of the two Companies and until they come to an amicable adjustment of them, and that the most precise orders should be sent for that purpose to the Governors and servants of the respective Companies in the East Indies. The States General having given such an assurance on the part of their Company, and actually put a stop to an armament which they intended to have sent to India on this occasion, we, in obedience to His Majesty's commands, as well as being desirous to do everything in our power to facilitate an accommodation between the two Companies, do therefore hereby positively order and direct that you do not commit any hostility or act of violence against the Dutch Company's agents; on the contrary, you are to use your best endeavours to cultivate by all sorts of good offices a reciprocal friendship and good understanding with them, and in particular if the Nawab shall unjustly attempt to molest the Dutch Company in Bengal, or any way prejudice them in their trade, privileges or property, you are to interpose your good offices in order to procure them redress and satisfaction; and if those should prove ineffectual, you

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* Matters had gone so far that the States General had been preparing to send an armament to India; while the local Authorities in India were quarrelling with the Dutch, the positive orders of the Home Authorities were "that the Dutch Company shall enjoy freedom of trade, safety, and protection equally with ourselves."

are to aid and defend them to the utmost of your power; it being our sincere desire and intention that the Dutch Company shall enjoy freedom of trade, safety and protection equally with ourselves.*

599.—*A Local Army to be formed for the King.*†

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 9, PARA. 4.]

We have made an application to Government that the King's forces, instead of returning to England, may have leave to engage in, and be incorporated with, the Company's, that is to say, all Ensigns, Subalterns and Private men belonging to the Battalions; Lieutenants and all below them in the Artillery Companies, and the Marines belonging to the Squadron, the Field and all other Officers above the beforementioned degrees being to be recalled.

600.—*Idleness among young Writers.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 17, PARA. 36.]

Having, by making so large an addition to our list of Covenant Servants, complied with your desire in its utmost extent, we may with reason expect to find the business of your Presidency effectually assisted.‡ But it is with real concern we hear by the concurrent testimony of almost every person who comes from Bengal that, unless our junior servants are kept more strictly to their duty, we are only adding to the Company's expense without receiving any benefit from it. It is you, our Governor and Council, we must and shall therefore depend upon to see that all our servants discharge the duty of their several stations with diligence and care.

* The Court subsequently referred to this in a despatch of 22nd February 1764. "We are extremely glad to find by your letter of the 14th February 1763 that the disagreeable altercations and disputes between the English and Dutch Factories concerning the opium trade have been accommodated by the President, when he was at Patna, to the satisfaction of both parties. As there is reason to believe that both our servants and those of the Dutch have been to blame, we strictly charge it upon you to see that the conduct of our servants in the providing or purchasing this article is such as may prevent every reason for complaint, and, on the other hand, the greatest care must be taken that the Dutch behave in like manner to ours."

† Permission was given by the King's Government for four Regiments to join the Company's Army. The privates were to engage for 5 years and were to receive a bounty or gratuity of Rs. 40 each man, the same as in 1748.

‡ 25 writers were sent out this year making the entire number 100.

601.—*Banians injurious to young Writers.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 17, PARA. 37.]

We are well assured that one great reason of the Writers neglecting the Company's business is engaging too soon in trade; this, by the assistance of their Banians, either furnishes them with the means of supporting extravagant expenses or lays an early foundation for distressed circumstances and improper influences, the certain consequences of both which are and must be an inattention to and neglect of the Company's business. We therefore positively order that none of the *Writers on your establishment* have the benefit or liberty of Dusticks *until the times of their respective writerships* are expired and they commence Factors, with this exception, however, that as some of them are older than usual in such a station, to such you may grant the said liberty or benefit of Dusticks, but herein you are to take notice it is our meaning such liberty is to extend only to the Writers who have fully attained or when they shall attain to the age of twenty-one years and not before, and provided they discharge their duty during their continuance in the station of Writers to your satisfaction.

602.—*Disputes to be avoided.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 17, PARA. 46.]

It is very disagreeable to us to find so many pages in your Diaries filled with dissents and disputes in the transacting some interesting part of our affairs pointed out in your letter of the 12th November 1761. We have read and considered the whole very attentively, and must express the great dissatisfaction it has given us to find our interest and the general welfare lost in these warm altercations.

603.—*The Military not to be the head.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 17, PARA. 48.]

The next point of their dissents (a party in Council)* is supporting the opinion of Major Carnac, who declared that the troops under his

* This party in Council wanted to precipitate a quarrel with the Nawab, the Court disagreed with them and wrote out, "if they (the Council) had duly weighed the necessity of supporting the Subah in his just rights and how necessary it was for our interests that he should be enabled, by receiving his just dues, to make good his engagements to us, pay his soldiers and preserve his authority, they surely could not have dissented against the prudent and just measures which were taken with respect to Ramnarayan. We highly disapprove of Messrs. Amyatt and Ellis's conduct for the share they took in supporting those extraordinary disputes at Patna."

command should not be employed in support of what he deemed to be acts of cruelty and oppression, which was in effect taking upon himself to be the judge of the propriety of the service he may be ordered upon, a pretension we are surprised these gentlemen should attempt to support; could they not see the consequence, that it would be putting our affairs in the hands of the Military Officers, a situation quite contrary to our intentions and the very nature of our service.

604.—*Count D'Estaing destroying Gombroon.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 29.]

The Count D'Estaing was a passenger in the said ship *La Boulogne* and is also brought into Plymouth. As this officer broke his parole by taking and destroying our settlements at Gombroon and upon the West Coast of Sumatra at a time when he was still a prisoner of war, we have laid before His Majesty a true state of the case.

605.—*Negrais. Cause of Massacre at—*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 34.]

It gives us pleasure to observe that the King of the Burmahs, who caused our people at the Negrais to be so cruelly massacred, is since dead, and succeeded by his son who seems to be of a more friendly and humane disposition: however, the intention of withdrawing all remaining people and effects from thence is a right measure, especially as the country is so much involved in troubles as you represent it. We have reason to think the late king would not have proceeded to such a cruel extremity without some provocations; the President and Council of Fort St. George, under whose more immediate cognizance the affairs of that country fall, appear by their last advices to be making some enquiries into the causes of the king's indignation against the English. We therefore defer giving our sentiments thereon until we have the final result of those enquiries. We cannot omit, however, observing that it has been alleged the people belonging to some of the country ships had taken part with the Peguers and behaved in a hostile and violent manner. We hope by this time our said President and Council have gone through the enquiry, and if they find any truth in this allegation, that the persons concerned have been duly censured, for we will never suffer our affairs

to be embroiled by the indiscretions and bad conduct of private persons residing in India under our protection. You will be informed from Fort St. George whether any persons belonging to Calcutta have been any way guilty in this affair, and we shall expect you will resent this behaviour as it shall appear to deserve.

606.—*President's Commission on Coral.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA, 41.]

It is reasonable the President should be upon the same footing as those of Fort St. George and Bombay with respect to consignments of coral and silver on private account, and therefore, as the proprietors of those articles enter into bonds to pay two per cent. commission thereon to the President, we do agree to his receiving such commission.

607.—*Employing Uncovenanted.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 19, PARA. 47.]

Had not so many of our servants in superior stations thrown up the service in the manner they did, there would have been no occasion for our sending persons in the rank of Factors, but you know very well it was a case of necessity, and as such the measure was taken. Your animadversions thereupon are therefore indecent and improper, especially as some among you (though not avowed in the General Letter) have, in their private capacities, solicited for introducing persons who reside in India into the service in prejudice to others. We are well pleased to hear the gentlemen who have been superseded by the before mentioned factors behave to your satisfaction, if they continue so to do they may depend upon our having a due regard to their respective services.

608.—*China Trade. Importance of—*

[COURT'S LETTER, APRIL 2, PARA. 16.]

We must repeat what we have often inculcated to you, that the China trade is a branch of the utmost importance to the Company, and must be promoted to the utmost of the ability of our several Presidencies. We shall therefore depend upon your despatching the *Houghton* thither as before directed, and from which there must be no deviation.

609.—*Pilots, how to be formed.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, PARA. 20.]

We recommended it to you as the most eligible method for procuring a proper number of seafaring men to be brought up in the river service, and thereby securing a succession of good pilots, that you apply to the commander of each ship returning to Europe to spare one capable person from his ship's company for this employ, to whom you are to make such an allowance as you shall find he merits; and that the owners may be at no expense thereby, you are to assure the commander in our name, that the Company will pay the expense of the hire, wages, maintenance in England, and passage back to India of such lascar as may be hired in the room of the person so discharged from the Company's service, deducting therefrom what would have been paid him if he had not been detained in India.

610.—*Engineers, how to be got.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, PARA. 92.]

We should very gladly comply with your request for sending you young persons to be brought up as assistants in the Engineering branch, but as we find it extremely difficult to procure such, you will do well to employ any who have a talent that way among the cadets or others. In our letter of the 17th December, we hinted that several of the writers going out this season were qualified in drawing, if you find they can be of use to the Engineer they are to be stationed accordingly, still keeping, however, their rank as covenant servants.

611.—*Captains of Cavalry.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, PARA. 104.]

Major Carnac, in the letter received from him, dated 8th February 1762, observes "that your establishment is loaded with the expense of "more Captains than need be, owing to the unnecessarily making it "a point that they should be Captains who command the Sepoy "Battalions, whereas such is the nature of Sepoys, that it requires a "peculiar genius and talent to be qualified for that service, and the "Battalions should be given only to such who are so, without regard "to rank."

Major Carnac further adds that, "notwithstanding the late reduc- "tion of your Infantry by mortality, the best men have been picked out "to form an ideal Troop of Cavalry, which exists no otherwise than "in the immense expense, for they have the pay and appointments of "troopers, though not yet mounted, nor is there the least probability of "their being completely provided with horses under a considerable "length of time."

612.—*The Directors' opinion of Vansittart.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MAY 13, PARA. 6.]

In our letter of the 13th March 1761, we allowed President Vansittart two and a half per cent. on our net revenues, including all the grants from Jaffer Ally Khan, and this we confirm as a settled and invariable emolument to every Governor.

But as the great increase of our revenues, arising out of the provinces granted us by Cossim Ally Khan, and the vast improvement of those revenues are principally owing to the wise, prudent, and disinterested conduct of President Vansittart, we think it but reasonable that he, preferring our interests to all other considerations, should participate in those benefits he has been so instrumental in acquiring for us.

613.—*Exports to India for* 1762.

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 36.]

As it must be of great utility for every one of our Presidencies to be informed not only of the consignments to each separately, but also of our export in general to every part of India and China, what follows therefore (without entering into a minute detail) is an account of the most material articles we send by the several ships of this season, *viz*:—

For the Presidency of Fort St. George, 981 bales of Cloth, 150 bales Long Ells, 4 bales of sundry Piece Goods, 100 tons of Lead, 70 tons Copper, 100 tons Iron, 5 tons Steel, 200 whole and 400 half barrels of Gunpowder, 10 tons of Grain, Tin in Caps, and 125 pipes of Madeira Wine.

The bales go equal in proportions on the five Coast and China Ships; the Wine in like manner by the four Coast and Bay Ships, and the rest of the articles partly in the Coast and China, and partly in the Coast and Bay Ships.

For the Presidency of Fort William 1,120 bales of Cloth, 50 bales Long Ells, 3 bales containing sundry Piece Goods, 100 tons Lead, 130 tons Copper, 100 tons Iron, 20 tons Tin, Cordage 106 tons, 125 pipes of Madeira Wine and 500 barrels Gunpowder.

All the said articles go nearly in equal proportions in the four Coast and Bay Ships.

For the Presidency of Bombay.

For the Bombay market—1766 bales of Cloth, 380 bales Long Ells, 40 bales broad Long Ells, 8 bales of sundry Piece Goods, 100 tons Lead, 250 tons Copper, 100 tons Iron, 10 tons Steel, 65 tons Tin, 50 pipes Madeira Wine and 200 barrels of Gunpowder.

For Bussora market—660 bales Cloth, 300 bales of Long Ells, containing 10 pieces each.

For Scindy market—40 bales Cloth and 70 bales Long Ells.

All the said articles go nearly in equal proportions in the 6 Bombay Ships, except the Wine, which goes by the *Anson* and *London*.

For the Presidency of Fort Marlborough, 30 chests of Treasure for our Mercantile Service, and 10 chests for a Bank to assist our servants there by way of loan to carry on their own trade, 50 tons Iron, 5 tons Steel, 10 tons Tin, 100 casks Flour, 100 half hogsheads Beef and Pork, *viz.*,—50 of each, 100 barrels Gunpowder, 70 tons cordage, 37 tons of Anchors, Grapnels, Shot and Ironmonger's ware of various sorts, 15 chaldron coals, with some other articles not material to be here specified.

All which are proportioned on the four ships bound to Fort Marlboro'.

For Canton—596 bales Cloth, 9 small bales of Superfine Cloth for the Emperor, 600 bales Long Ells, 20 bales of Camblets, 1,100 tons Lead, 5 tons Grain, Tin in caps.

The 5 Coast and China Ships have 60 tons Lead each for Canton; the rest of the Lead and the other articles go in the other China Ships.

With respect to stores and necessaries of several kinds for each Presidency, and yours in particular, though not mentioned in the preceding accounts, the indents for them will be complied with in general, as far as shall be thought necessary, and the tonnage and other circumstances will admit of.

614.—*Indents for Artillery and French Guns.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 43.]

Your Indent for Brass and Iron Guns and Ordnance stores is so great, that it is a further confirmation of our before-mentioned remarks of last season upon the inattention in framing your Indents. We can therefore by no means think of complying with it fully, more especially when we consider what large quantities have been taken from the French in the different parts of India. And as we have never been acquainted in what manner the stores so taken in or brought to Bengal have been applied, you are to send us a particular account thereof by the first ship for our information.

615.—*The Directors on French Trade.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 53.]

By what can be collected from public and private intelligence with respect to the French East India Company, it appears to be in a very low and languishing condition, unable to carry on trade, and imagined to be upon the point of being dissolved. If that takes place, which we suppose most probable, it is thought the scheme will be for private people to trade to the Isles of Bourbon and France, and China, and possibly some few ships may go to the other parts of India on condition of paying His Most Christian Majesty an Indulto,* and that the French will renounce entirely the other settlements and trade to Asia, for the present at least, as well for avoiding the expenses and difficulties that would be met with, as for encouraging their own manufactures. We do not give you this information as a certainty, but upon the whole it may be inferred but very few ships can proceed from France to the East Indies this season, and that it will probably be long before the French trade and power can make a figure again in India.

616.—*Slaves. How to get a supply of—*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 79.]

We have taken into our consideration the most effectual and speedy method for supplying our settlements upon the West Coast with slaves, and we have therefore fixed upon two ships for that purpose, *viz.*,—the *Fort William*, Captain Edward Roach, and the *Success*, Captain David Crichton, let for 350 tons each, to proceed from hence to Madagascar to purchase as many as can be procured, and the said ships conveniently carry, who are to be delivered by the Captains of those ships to our agents at Fort Marlborough at the rate of £15-0-0 a head for so many as shall appear to be on board at the time of their departure from Madagascar. It is purposed that they shall be despatched from Madagascar the 30th of November at farthest. We give you this notice by way of general information only, as we shall acquaint you with particulars by a future conveyance. You will observe that if this voyage proves successful, there will be no occasion for sending the *Admiral Watson* to Madagascar.

* Sic in original.

As upon the arrival of the said slaves at Fort Marlboro' there will be wanting an additional stock of provisions, you will therefore take care that, as conveyances offer, the necessary supplies are sent thither, as likewise of what piece goods may be proper for their clothing.

617.—*Policy to the Nawab.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 81.]

We positively direct, as you value our service, that you do immediately acquaint the Nawab, in the Company's name, that we disapprove of every measure which has been taken in real prejudice to his authority and Government, particularly with respect to the wronging him in his revenues by a shameful abuse of dusticks; and you are further to inform him that we look upon his and the Company's interest to be so connected, that we wish for nothing more than to have everything put on such a footing that the utmost harmony may be promoted and kept up between us.

618.—*Sea-fight off Hugly River.*

[COURT'S LETTER, DECEMBER 30, PARA. 85.]

It is with real pleasure we have received from the President and Council at Fort St. George an account of the gallant defence of Captain Thomas Howe of the *Winchelsea* in an engagement with two French Ships of War in January last off Hooghly River. His behaviour on this occasion having fully shown how worthy he is of the good opinion we have always entertained of him.

619.—*Court of Cutcherry and Arbitration.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 4.]

Taking, therefore, into consideration the hardship set forth by the merchants in their petition of being obliged to sit as arbitrators to the great prejudice of their private business, and of being liable to fine if their business should at any time prevent their giving punctual attendance, the delay of justice occasioned by this method of arbitration, it appearing from the proceedings of the Court that none of the principal causes depending in that way are yet decided, and the great

probability there is that those of any consideration will never be decided from the arbitrators being suspicious that hereafter, under a worse Government, there might be (according to the custom in some parts of the country) money extorted from them on account of their decision. It is the opinion of the Board that it will be more eligible for the Court to carry on the business conformably to the original regulations sent out by the Court of Directors, and those transmitted to them by this Board at, and since, the establishment of the Court, before the late restriction.

620.—*A French Fleet at Balasore.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 12.]

The President acquaints the Board that the chowkey boat arrived at town last night at 12 o'clock with William Mirtle on board, late mate of the *Speedwell Snow*. Captain Ramsay, who brings the following intelligence namely—"That they were taken on the 7th "instant in 25 fathoms water by a French squadron, consisting of two "ships and a frigate, which is cruizing in Balasore road and has made "the following prizes, *viz*:—The *Walpole*, Indiaman, from Europe (taken "off Ceylon.) The Snow *Navey* outward bound to Madras. The "*Grampus* Pilot sloop, *Savage*, and a sloop from Chittagong, supposed "to be the *Clive*. That he (Mirtle) on the morning of the 9th repos-"sessed himself of the *Speedwell* and was pushing in for the river, "but finding that he was in danger of being again taken by the "French Frigate, he took to his boat with 10 lascars and made his escape." That of this intelligence the President despatched immediate advice to the Governor, and that he has now summoned the Council to consult what further steps are proper to be taken upon the occasion.

Taking first into consideration the safety of our Hon'ble Master's Ships lying at Kedgeree, as there appears a probability that the French by their frigate and boats may make an attempt towards destroying them.

Agreed, we call upon the Master Attendant (who is in waiting) for his opinion, whether the ships can be brought up to Culpee and carried down again in time (after we see the issue of this news), to be despatched to Europe this season.

Mr. Scott being accordingly called in, gives it as his opinion that the ships cannot be brought up from Kedgeree, to secure a certainty

of their being afterwards carried down and despatched for Europe, on account of the winds which may be expected to blow the end of next month and beginning of March, and the channel that they have to pass, which is very dangerous; he further supports his opinion by several instances, particularly of the *Godolphin* last year.

621.—*Manik Chand's son to be taken care of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 17.]

Received a letter from Dacca, the 9th and 10th instant, stating that as the son of Manick Chand is an infant of four years old, and therefore incapable of succeeding to his father's post, they request our permission to enter him on the Company's books at a small monthly pay, till such time as his years and capacity may entitle him to some office of trust.*

622.—*Dacca. Oppression of English at—*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 17.]

(Copy of a translation of Mr. Cartier's letter to Mahomed Aly).

To Mahomed Aly.†

SIR,—The strange and violent proceedings of the different Sickdars, Zemindars and Chowkeydars in the district of Dacca in stopping the English Trade, plundering their gomastahs and servants, and affronting their colours, oblige me, as chief of the Company's affairs at Dacca, to apply to you for satisfaction for these insults, and to demand a reason for such an extraordinary conduct. I can scarcely believe, Sir, that these actions can be the result of your orders and much less Cossim Ally Khan's; but as you cannot be ignorant of the secret springs of them, I require of you a positive explanation concerning this matter. You must be sensible of the danger an invasion of the privileges granted to the English must be attended with, and the resentment we have it in

* The Government agreed to entertain on the Company's pay the son of the deceased Manik Chand, who was useful to them in various ways during the preceding 30 years, though he led the Nawab's troops against the English at the battle of Budge-Budge; however, one of the first balls fired by the English went through his turban, on which he put spurs to his horse and never stopped till he reached Calcutta. He had a fine country seat near Byeala on the Diamond Harbour Road, the remains of which are still to be seen.

† He was the Nawab's Collector at Dacca.

our power to show, and have shown in instances of the like nature. I choose to communicate my sentiments by letter, well knowing the many mistakes that happen in sending and answering messages, *the sense of them* very often being perverted.

623.—*The Nawab of Purnea on Trade.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 17.]

(Translation of a letter from Sheer Aly Khan, Nawab of Purnea, to Messrs. Johnstone, Hay and Bolts).

I received your letter from Ram Churn Dass, in which you write that I obstruct your gomastah in your trade, and have published by beat of drum that whoever deals with English gomastahs shall be fined or punished, all which I duly observe. What I have to offer on this subject is, that the gomastahs of English gentlemen did give and receive money at interest to the officers of the King's revenues in my districts, which, by deaths and people running away, caused great outstanding debts, and in consequence quarrels and disputes with my officers, by which the duties and revenues of my Phouzdarry have been quite impaired. That a stop might be put to these quarrels for the good of both your and our business, and that no one of my officers may take on credit from the factories of the English gomastahs, but deal for ready money, agreeably to the order from the Nawab, I have taken Moochulcas, but am ready to assist the gomastahs of English gentlemen in everything they desire of me.*

624.—*Vansittart's Perwannah.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 17.]

Translation of Mr. Vansittart's Perwannah to Gungaram Mittre.†

I am acquainted that Mr. Cheyalier, Mr. Texeira and sundry English gomastahs, without either dustuck or order from the Huzoor, do, in the Pergunnah of Radshaby, and other districts in the zemindary of Rance Bhobaney, oppressly stop and embargo goods, and force people

* Messrs. Johnstone and Co. replied to this letter, the reply was considered satisfactory by the Government. Much of the confusion arose from the maintaining the custom of the country of making *dadan* or advances.

† Gungaram Mittre was sent to Rangamutty with a perwannah to enquire into the conduct of English traders in that district.

to buy, by which the inhabitants are obliged to fly the country, and the King's revenues are greatly prejudiced. I therefore send you with some Burkundazes. You must, on your arrival at the said pergunnah, prevent those people who have raised such disturbances, who, if they mind you it will be well, but if not, whatever oppressions they have been guilty of you must make yourself fully acquainted with, and send to me an authentic account of the same, and agreeably thereto I shall take account of their oppressive proceedings and punish them.

625.—*Nawab Kasim Ali on borrowing money.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 17.]

Translation of the Nawab Kasim Ali Khan's Perwannah to Ramnaut Bhawdry at Dinagepore.

Mr. Vansittart has informed me that the zemindars, elakadars and others of the districts under your jurisdiction borrow money from the factories of English Gomastahs, and they also lend it, which occasions quarrels and disputes. If these zemindars and elakadars of your districts produce orders from the Huzzoor to authorize them to borrow and lend, in that case there will be no dispute. Mr. Vansittart will himself write to the head Gomastah of his own factory to this purpose.

626.—*Hanging an Amildar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 20.]

(Extract of a letter from the Governor from Kasimbazar, the 15th instant.)

That Turrut Sing, the Amildar of Gungypore, being convicted of killing Mr. Gray's Gomastah, has received sentence to be hanged at the place where the violence was committed, and that Shijr Aly, the Fouzdar, for endeavoring to screen him, and other bad behaviour towards our Gomastahs, will be dismissed from his Government of Purnea.

627.—*English Prisoners in danger of dying of Scurvy.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 27.]

The President lays before the Board translate of a letter which he has received from the Captain of the *Condé*, accompanying 29 English prisoners (agreeably to a list enclosed), which were taken by them upon

the *Walpole* India man, off Ceylon,* and whom he says, he hopes, we will continue to regard as prisoners, having sent them on shore with a view of rescuing them from a death which he imagined must inevitably be the consequence of keeping them on board, the major part of them being very much afflicted with the scurvy, and that we will produce, when occasion may offer, a like number of persons of each station in exchange.

628.—*Income and Expenditure for* 1763.

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 31.]

It appears that the following advances will be requisite for the investment, *viz* :—

		Rs.
To the Calcutta Aurungs about	... ...	15,00,000
Cossimbazar „	... ...	9,00,000
Dacca „	... ...	5,50,000
Patna „	... ...	3,50,000
Luckypore „	... ...	3,00,000
Chittagong „	... ...	50,000
Midnapore „	... ...	50,000
Malda „	... ...	3,00,000
		40,00,000

so that the demands of this Presidency will amount this year to about eighty lakhs of rupees.

To answer which, it is calculated our rents will turn out as follows, *viz* :—

	Rs.		
The Revenues of Burdwan ...	34,00,000		
Midnapore about... ...	5,00,000		
Chittagong	5,00,000		
Calcutta	8,00,000		
Siccas ...	52,00,000	or Co.'s Rs.	60,00,000
Sales in the Import Warehouse	... ...		8,00,000
Receipts from the Custom House	... ...		1,50,000
For bills on the Company computed	... ...		20,00,000
	Co.'s Rs. ...		89,50,000

In all about eighty-nine and a half lakhs of rupees.

* 175 prisoners in all were taken.

629.—*Expenditure of the Commissary General.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 1.]

Abstract of expenses from the Commissary General's books commencing from May 1761 *to the* 30*th April* 1762.

Batta to Officers	4,09,067	4	9
Sepoys' pay	7,38,262	12	0
Pay to Europeans in the Sepoys	49,086	7	3
Troop charges	1,50,667	14	0
Horses bought, 114...	68,162	13	6
Sepoys' batta	2,07,325	14	0
Contingent expenses, including stores	1,98,324	12	6
Elephants 3 and camels 15, bought	12,704	13	0
Cooleys' pay and batta	77,876	5	6
Black horse	1,70,182	3	0
Lascars pay and batta	60,771	12	6
Contractor for feeding elephants and camels	22,973	0	9
Artificers' pay and batta...	25,277	9	6
Boat hire...	1,84,959	13	6
Contractor for victualling Europeans	1,09,167	3	9
Contractor for furnishing and feeding bullocks	1,14,257	7	3
Current Rupees	25,99,068	2	9

N. B.—Chittagong accounts not included.

630.—*Governor Vansittart* on Europeans Trading.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 1.]

Can that plan be solid where nothing is fixed, and where the English Gomastahs shall be under no control, but regarding themselves far above the Magistrate of the country where they reside, take upon themselves to decide, not only their own disputes with the merchants and inhabitants, but those also of one merchant and inhabitant with another, or is it possible that Government can collect their due revenues in such circumstances?

* Governor Vansittart was, on this question of the evils of private trading, in opposition to the majority of his Council, as well as to the traders of those days; there were few merchants then in Calcutta. He complained that Messrs. Johnstone, Hay and Bolt's letters against him gained the approbation of the Board, though they were carrying on a private trade contrary to the orders of the Court. The English traders objected to Native officials controlling them; the Governor pointed out that their trading in salt, beetel-nut and tobacco was an act of favor on the part of the Country Government. Mr. Vansittart finding it necessary to restrain the excesses of the Gomastahs appealed to the Court of Directors.

The plan for carrying on the private inland trade, contained in my letter to the Nawab, is the same in substance as the articles which, in my joint letter with Mr. Hastings of the 15th December, we mention to have prepared to the Nawab. It is such a plan as seemed to me to be most conformable to the Company's intentions in respect to that trade, most consistent with the rights and true interests of their servants here, and with common reason and equity. And I call on you, gentlemen, in the first place, to prove that I have *assumed a right to which I was no ways authorised,* that the Regulations proposed are *dishonorable to you as Englishmen,* or tend to the *ruin of all public and private trade,* which are the terms in which you have been pleased to express your opinion; and in the second place to form a plan yourselves which shall be more conformable to the good purpose beforementioned, and without regard to which I am persuaded our Honorable Masters will not give the sanction of their approbation to this new trade, or form such a plan, gentlemen, and I will subscribe to it with pleasure and engage the Nawab shall do so too.

For my own part, I think that the honor and dignity of our nation would be better maintained by a scrupulous and careful restraint of the dustuck, than by extending it beyond its usual bounds, and by putting our gomastahs under some checks, than by suffering them to exercise an authority in the country, every one according to the means put into his hands, and thereby bringing an odium upon the name of the English by repeated violence done to the inhabitants.

The complaints come from the distant corners of the province as Rungpore, Purnea, Dinagepore, Rangamatty, Gualparah, Sylhet, Backergunge, &c., where if those complaints are true, the English gomastahs being under no control of their masters, despise and illtreat the officers of the Government, set themselves up for Judges and Magistrates, hear disputes between the inhabitants and extort fines, force the merchants to buy their goods at more than the market-price, and to sell what they require as much below it. The complaints I have received of this sort are innumerable; I have done my utmost to find out the truth and get redress and put an end to them by forwarding copies to the chief of the factory nearest the place where the cause of complaint has arisen, and desiring him to enquire into it; but for the most part I have had no other satisfaction than the gomastah's flat denial of the fact. The places being very distant, a proper examination of witnesses is almost impossible, either

before this Board or any of the subordinates * * every step I can take for the redress of the inhabitants of the country is complained of as an encroachment upon the privileges of the English.

Extract of a letter from GOVERNOR VANSITTART, *to* MESSRS. JOHNSTONE, HAY *and* BOLTS,—(*Monghyr, December* 15*th* 1762.)

I am very certain it is that many English agents and gomastahs, and particularly those belonging to the Dacca gentlemen, have practised a method of carrying on business called in this country *barja* and *kichaunt*, that is, forcing the merchants and shop-keepers to take their goods at 30, 40 or 50 per cent. above the market-price. The complaints I had of this and other oppressions practised by Mr. Chevalier and the gomastahs employed under his direction were without number; when I desired Mr. Cartier to redress those grievances, I was sure to receive from him in answer a letter from Mr. Chevalier denying all the facts, and so the enquiry stopped, but the complaints were received with fresh instances.

631.—*Dacca Dulals to be protected against the Nawab's Collector.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 8.]

Received a letter from Dacca, dated the 27th January, acquainting us that Neholl, one of their Delolls, having deceased not long ago, Mahomed Aly, the Nawab's Collector, immediately put peons on his house and laid claim to his effects in wrong of an infant who has called upon them for protection. That in this he (Mahomed Aly) declares he acts from the Nawab's orders, but as the protection of their Dulals is a point of such importance, they have thought it expedient to send some sepoys for the security of the house, and hope the step will meet our approbation.

Agreed, we write in answer thereto, that we approve of the step they have taken, and that we now enclose them a letter from the President to Mahomed Aly, warning him to desist from any such proceeding in future.

632.—*Dakoits at Lukypore near Dacca.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 21.]

Agreed, we write an answer to this letter from Luckypore to inform them that our last letters empowered them to apply to Chittagong for such force as might be requisite to free the interruptions in their business. And that if any more such happen from the dakoits, we recommend that they make a severe and immediate example of all they can seize.*

633.—*Beating Sepoys by an Agent of the Serampur Danish Factory.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 1.]

From CAPTAIN BROADBULL, *to* MAJOR ADAM, *dated Ghyretty, February* 20.

Two Companies of sepoys belonging to the first Battalion that had done duty in Calcutta, being relieved, were ordered to proceed and join their corps at the cantonments, passing through Serampore—the high road leads through Serampore—a jemadar, a havildar and a sepoy loitered their time and stayed there till they lost their way; they enquired of a black fellow, who directed them wrong, and on their return they abused him, and from words arose blows. The guard of peons at the barrier of the place being alarmed seized the jemadar, havildar and sepoy, carried them to the zemindar of the place, who, upon enquiry, after hearing numerous complaints, increased and exaggerated upon that occasion, without listening to anything they had to say, ordered them to be tied up and chaubucked, though they had their regimentals on. The havildar placed with a guard close to the bounds of the place, hearing that a jemadar, havildar and a sepoy of the Battalion were seized and carried by the peons of the place to the zemindar, waited on him and told him that if those men had done any fault, begged he would not punish them, but send them under a guard to their own Officers, and there they would be punished very severely for it; the zemindar replied to him "that he would first punish them there, and then send them to their Officers," and chaubucked them before his face.

I waited on the Chief of Serampore, agreeably to your directions, and enquired if it was by his orders these people were chaubucked; he told me he knew nothing of it, as he was out of the place; it was the zemindar, to whom the administration of justice amongst the black people was left, and that he was very sorry anything of that kind should have happened. He observed to me that he had made several representations to Colonel Coote, who never gave him any justice or satisfaction, or ever took any notice of it. That there were continual complaints from the towns-

* They represented that a multitude of dakoits infested the country.

people of the soldiers from camp committing depredations in the town. He likewise observed to me that the English made great distinctions amongst the black people; that with them there was none, only with Europeans; and had it been a European person or persons, he or they would have been sent to the cantonment. That there was not a day passed without complaints of the troops from cantonment. That in future, since he knew that there was justice in the cantonment, he shall take care that nothing of the like should be done in the Settlement.*

634.—*Warren Hastings' Minute in favor of a Black Act.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 2.]

MR. HASTINGS *delivers in the following Minute, in support of his opinion of yesterday, for subjecting our Gomastahs and Agents to the control of the Officers of the Country Government:—*

In the consultation of yesterday, it having been entered as the unanimous opinion of the Board, with the single exception of myself, that the English gomastahs should be subject to no control from the Government, I must beg leave to subjoin another argument to what I have already said upon the subject in favor of this singularity of sentiment.

In all affairs relating to our connections with the Country Government, one object we should ever keep in view as of the highest importance to the future welfare of the Company,—I mean the duration of their acquisitions and influence in this country. Whatever may serve to perpetuate and fix these advantages, tho' attended with a present inconvenience, should be invariably pursued; and whatever present or temporary conveniences have a tendency to destroy them or to change our connections, should be for the same reason rejected.

An union between two powers which stand in need of each other's assistance, and whose interests agree, may endure for ages; but where that mutual dependence is wanting, and their interests perpetually clashing, the greatest efforts of human reason will be scarcely able to unite them on any solid foundation. Such, unfortunately, is our situation in our alliance with the Nawab. His power, if properly supported,

* This led to a long correspondence, the whole cause being that three English sepoys near Serampur, enquiring their way to the camp at Ghyretty, were misdirected by a guard of Danish peons; this led to a quarrel, the peons, charging them with beating them and breaking a large tomtom, took them prisoners to the Governor of Serampur, who ordered each of them 25 lashes.

and a mutual confidence were established between us, would indeed afford us the greatest benefit and security. But the chief source of discord between us arises from the intricacy of our connections with him. Our lands (the least subject of contention, because divided by known and fixed boundaries) lie close to and even in the midst of his. Our trade is circulated through every part of his country, and our agents and dependents intimately blended with his subjects, without any bounds to mark out the extent of his authority or our privileges.

It is now proposed to fix such a limitation by absolving every person employed in our service from the jurisdiction of the Government. This, it is true, will prevent their suffering any oppression, but it gives them full license of oppressing others, since whatever crimes they may commit the Magistrate must patiently look on, nor dare even to defend the lives or properties of the subject entrusted to his care without a violation of our rights and privileges. Such is the expedient proposed for the security of our trade and for preserving the tranquillity of the country.

Such a system of government cannot fail to create in the minds of the wretched inhabitants an abhorrence of the English name and authority, and how will it be possible for the Nabob, whilst he hears the cries of his people which he cannot redress, not to wish to free himself from an alliance which subjects him to such indignities?

I forbear at present to take notice of the methods which are to be employed as checks of such a licentiousness, but shall briefly observe that, if the chiefs of the factories are to be made the judges in all causes in which their gomastahs are concerned, whatever their integrity may be, or how unbiassed so ever their judgment, yet such is the infatuation of mankind (not to speak of Bengalees alone) that in ninety-nine cases out of an hundred they will rather submit to oppression than forsake their homes and travel with a crowd of witnesses to the nearest Factory in quest of justice, when they believe their Judge to be interested in the suit against them, as there will be few instances in which it will not be in the power of the gomastah to connect their own frauds or rogueries with the interest of his employer, or to make it hazardous to chastise him.

635.—*Burdwan. Cess (Salamy) on land.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 3.]

The Brahmins residing in the Province of Burdwan deliver in a petition relative to the Salamy ordered to be levied on their lands for the present year.

Ordered it be entered after this Consultation.

It appearing to the Board, after hearing all that the parties had to say in support of their petition, that the salamy demanded by the rajah for this year does not amount to above Rs. 250,000 upon 16 lacs odd thousand rupees, the jummabundee of 4,67,000 beegahs, possessed under the heads of bermuttur and dieuttur, &c., for which they pay no rent.* They esteem the same very reasonable, and that the rajah has a just title to demand it to assist him on this occasion; and therefore they confirm the resolution of Council of the 10th January, and do again order that they conform in paying a salamy agreeably to the computation made for this year. That those who prove their rights by sunnuds, authentic proof of their having been lost, or possession before the Bengal year 1148, when the Mahrattas first entered the country, shall next year enjoy their lands, paying as distinguished in the four following classes, *viz.* :—

1*st.*—Zemindary sunnuds granted by the former rajahs, the lands of which have been discounted from the sudder jumma.

2*nd.*—Sunnuds granted by the present Rajah till October 1760, when the Company took possession agreeably to the accounts thereof, registered in the cutcherry, and of which the rents have been also discounted from sudder jumma.

On the same footing as Ayma.

3*rd.*—Sunnuds granted during the present rajah's time by the Dewans, Manik Chund, Omy Chand and Mutsuddies, whether discounted or not discounted.

4*th.*—Sunnuds granted by ezaradars themselves or by their gomastahs called tookdars.

To be re-annexed and pay as Comar unless passed before the year 1148.

* Rent having been demanded at this time by the English Authorities for those charity lands, the Brahmins of Burdwan sent in a petition to the effect, that no Nawab or Government had before demanded rent on charity lands; their petition was granted.

636.—*Town house. Rent of—*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 7.]

The churchwarden delivers in a bill for the rent of the Town House for one year to the 31st December 1762, amounting to Current Rupees 2,000.*

637.—*The Seniority Principle.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 10.]

To THE HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQ., *President and Governor, and Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—Being informed that, having resolved to nominate a 3rd in Council at Cossimbazar and a resident at Rungpore, you made Mr. Beaumont the offer of these posts, but on his request to be excused from accepting them, you have thought proper to appoint Mr. Lyon, who is my junior in the Honorable Company's service, without making me the same offer made to Mr. Beaumont, which proceeding I cannot help thinking is very irreconcileable with that strict equity and impartiality intended by our Hon'ble Masters as the invariable rule of their service, without most unexceptionable cause assigned for any deviation, and I must apprehend myself highly injured by your appointment, unless you will please to demonstrate to me that Mr. Lyon has capacity and integrity which I have not, for doing the Hon'ble Company's business at Cossimbazar and Rungpoor; if that can be proved, out of the highest regard for the good of the Hon'ble Company's service we are in, I shall willingly give up what I must otherwise esteem my right, as you have been ready to appoint Mr. Lyon.

I humbly request you will favor me with your answer to this address, and that it may be entered in your consultations.

Gentlemen of the Hon'ble Council, though I am certain that a majority must have consented to appoint Mr. Lyon as before mentioned, yet as it may be possible that some of you might judge more favorably of me, I think it right to apologize for mentioning the Hon'ble Board in so general terms, wherefore I must inform you that, as soon as I heard of Mr. Lyon's appointment, I waited on the Governor, expecting he would either grant me redress, or that I should hear such solid reason of your proceeding that I might rest well satisfied with your conduct, but how great was my surprise, when I was told that he and his Council judged Mr. Lyon more capable of serving the Hon'ble Company than I was, therefore he was appointed, and that he would not, and he believed you would not, give me a more satisfactory reason, even if I applied to the Board, and further that he could easily prove, that it was not our Hon'ble Masters' intention that seniority in the service should have superior weight to your will and pleasure. I beg leave to observe that if this is

* This Town Hall stood to the north of the Writer's Buildings.

admitted, rank in the service is of no use, and a capable but modest man may sometimes be neglected when those more forward but less deserving, may wear the laurels which ought to crown the brows of merit; this appears to me so inconsistent with reason and equity, and consequently with the interest of the Company, that I hope what I have said on the subject will not be thought impertinent either by you or your Hon'ble Masters, and that you will excuse the prolixity of this address and favor me with such satisfactory reasons of your appointment that I may rest well satisfied with your conduct, without suffering my character and capacity to be condemned, which not only my present honor and interest, but must inevitably be a perpetual obstacle to my future preferment.

I am with all due respect,
HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,
Your most obedient Servant,

FORT WILLIAM,
The 10th March 1763. } (Sd.) PETER DOWNES.*

638.—*Presents to the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 10.]

By Durbar Charges paid for the following goods for presents to the Nawab as per order of Consultation the 14th October 1762 :—

4 Pairs glasses flowered cups, saucers and covers at 25 p. pr. ...	100	0	0
1 Glass Fountain	1,000	0	0
3 Boxes with wax figures	1,200	0	0
1 Sea Cocoanut	300	0	0
1 Piece brocade Silk delivered out of the Company's ware-house and charged	683	0	0
2 Rolls of Madras Chintz with gold flowers	200	0	0
25 Pieces Europe Broad Cloth of different colours from the ware-house	2,264	10	0
10 Pieces Europe Velvet from the ware-house	3,200	0	0
20 Catties of Saffron, viz.—1 maund 10 seers at 18 rs. per seer ...	900	0	0
Amber Grease, viz., sicca weights 394-6 at 6 rs. per sicca weight is At Rs. 2366-4-0 or	2,555	8	0
To packing the Bales	60	7	9
Co.'s Rs. ...	12,465	9	9

* The Government replied, "we do not esteem it necessary to give him any reasons for the appointment we have made."

639.—*The Governor's travelling charges.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 14.]

The Governor's account of travelling charges :—

To the Nabob's servants, Sona. Rs. 2,200, or C. Rs.	2,442	0	0
To Moonshee's Pay, Batta and Palankeens for 3 months	658	11	1
To Beldars for 3 months, one Sirdar 7 Rs., 2 Mates 12 Rs., and 49 Beldars at 5 Rs. is At. Rs. 264 per month, At. Rs. 792, or ...	855	6	0
To Watermen, one Sirdar at 10 Rs., and 20 men at 6 Rs. each is At. Rs. 130 per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 390, or	421	3	6
To Shoemakers, one Sirdar at 7 Rs., and 5 Mates at 6 Rs. each, being 37 Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 111, or	119	13	9
To Carpenters, one Mate at 11 Rs., and 5 Carpenters at 8 Rs. each, being 51 Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 153, or	165	3	4
To Ironsmiths, one Mistry at 15 Rs., and 5 men at 7½ each, being 51½ Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 157-8, or	170	1	9
To Sail-makers one Sirdar at 10 Rs., and 5 Mates at 8 Rs. each, being 50 Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 150, or	162	0	0
To Tailors, one Sirdar at 15 Rs., and one Mate at 10 Rs., being 25 Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 75, or	81	0	0
To Cooleys, 400 at 5 Rs. each per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 6,000, or	6,480	0	0
To 2 Serangs at 12 Rs. each Pay, and 5 Rs. Batta per month 34			
9 Tindals at 8 ditto and 4 ditto 108			
160 Lascars at 5 ditto and 2 ditto 1,120			
1,262 At. Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 3,786, or	4,088	14	6
To 3 hired 10-oared Budgerows at Rs. 10 each per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 630, or	680	6	3
To 4 Head Hurcaras at Rs. 15 per month, and 25 Hurcaras at 10 Rs. per month, being 310 Rs. per month, for 3 months is At. Rs. 930, or	1,004	5	6
To Woolacks 58 of 6 oars at 22 Rs. per month ... 1,276			
25 of 8 do. at 26 „ „ ... 650			
1 of 9 do. at ... 38			
2 of 7 do. at 28 „ „ ... 56			
9 of 4 do. at 17 „ „ ... 153			
At. Rs. 2,170 per month for 2 months, is At. Rs. 4,346, or	5,041	6	0
To the Governor's usual monthly allowance for October, November, December and January at 2,000 C. Rs.	8,000	0	0
To additional for Batta of servants and other travelling expenses for 3 months at 2,000 C. Rs.	6,000	0	0
Current Rupees ...	36,370	8	1

FORT WILLIAM,
The 25th February 1763.

(Sd.) HENRY VANSITTART.

640.—*Kasimbazar as a Sanitarium.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 17.]

Mr. McGuire sends in a letter requesting our permission to go to Kossimbazar for the recovery of his health.* Application granted.

641.—*Nundkumar on his imprisonment.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 17.]

To

THE HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQ., *and Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—The distress I suffer in my person and state during a close confinement since the month of August past, induces me to apply to your Hon'ble Board for a further consideration of my case in all its circumstances, willing to submit myself, if found guilty, to whatever punishment your laws may prescribe.

The means which have been used by my enemies to effect my ruin, and the evidences they have produced against me, if set in their proper light by a person acquainted with your language and the evidences confronted with me, which they never have been, agreeably to the custom of all trials, I flatter myself the proofs would come far short of what they have appeared to your Honors for want of these helps, and would not merit the punishment which is now inflicted upon me.

The ignominious and painful situation I am in at present makes me wish for any end to these miseries, and that I may be brought upon my trial agreeably to the laws of England.

Should your Honors not think proper to grant my request of being tried by the laws of England in a public manner, as your Honors have been pleased to think that I am not to be trusted with my liberty in this country, may I yet beg it may be indulged me to retire with my family in safety to some other.

I am, with greatest respect,

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

FORT WILLIAM,
The 17th March 1763. } (Sd.) NUNDECOMAR ROY. L. S.

* Kasimbazar, like many other places in Bengal, is now far from being a locality for the recovery of health; the old factories are overrun with jungle.

642.—*Troops, location of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 21.]

Agreed and resolved that for the purpose of preserving the men in health and proper discipline, securing the frontier against the irruptions of an enemy, and maintaining the tranquillity of the country about one-half of the army shall be constantly kept at Patna. That the other half be cantoned at Ghyrotty and furnish a guard of 60 Europeans for the duty at the Presidency, to be relieved weekly, the number of the King's and the Company's troops exclusive of the Midnapore detachment being at this time nearly equal. These views will be answered by keeping them at those two stations, each corps complete under their proper officers.

643.—*The Persian Translator resigns.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 21.]

Mr. Rogers represents to the Board that on account of the multiplicity of the business, his not having a thorough knowledge of the original Persian, and the decline of his health from the great fatigue of the office for these two years past, he finds himself incapable to go through the duty of Persian Translator, and therefore requests permission to relinquish the same.

644.—*Mr. Johnson in jail for striking a servant.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 21.]

To the Hon'ble Henry Vansittart, Esq., President and Council, &c., for the Town of Calcutta, at Fort William in Bengal.

The humble petition of Marshall Johnson.

SHEWETH,

That your petitioner being now under confinement and has been so for near three months for a fine levied against me, and my bail at the Quarter Sessions for striking my servant and non-appearance tho' a little too late was rejected and in consequence thereof the Bench of Justice fined me and my bail in four hundred pounds sterling, for part of which sum I am now rotting in a loathsome jail,* having not wherewithal to pay the fine or any part thereof nor even to provide common necessaries of life.†

* The old jail stood where the Lal Bazar intersects the Chitpur Road.

† Mr. Johnson's petition was granted.

645.—*The Abolition of duties by the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 22.]

Translate of a copy of a Perwannah from His Excellency Nawab Cossim Ally Khan, to Rajah Nowbet Ram, dated the 19th Shaaban, the 1st year of the reign or 5th March 1763.

(With the usual address).

Having been certainly informed that the greater part of the Merchants of my country have suffered considerable losses, and have laid aside all traffic, sitting idle and unemployed in their houses.

Therefore with a view to the welfare and quiet of this kind of people, I have caused all duties and customs, Chowkeydaree Mangan, collections upon new built boats and other lesser taxes by land or by water, for two years to come, to be removed, and my sunnud is accordingly sent to enforce it.

646.—*Warren Hastings and Mr. Vansittart on the abolition of duties by the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 24.]

In our letter to the Board the 15th December from Monghyr it is noticed that the Nawab had declared his resolution to take off all customs, and lay trade entirely open, in case the disputes between us concerning the customs on the private inland trade could not be amicably settled and that we insisted on carrying it on free of duties. The reasons he gave for this resolution are there mentioned, *viz.*, that if we thought our privileges extended so far and would carry on our trade in all articles free of customs, of course the country Merchants could have little share and the duties proceeding therefrom would be so inconsiderable that he thought it would be more for the advantage of his revenues to encourage the Merchants in general by an entire abolition of all customs which would remove at once the principal cause of the disputes between him and us. We added in the same letter that we had dissuaded the Nawab from this measure, lest it should prejudice the Company's business by enhancing the number of purchasers, and rendering the dustucks useless, and mentioned this as an argument why we ought to consent to pay customs on our private inland trade, not to risk hurting the Company's interests for our own particular advantage.

It has, however, been determined by the majority of the Board that we shall trade in all articles custom free, as well from place to place in the country in commodities produced in the country, as in foreign imports and commodities for exportations, which resolution being declared to the Nawab, he on his part has determined to take off customs in general and lay trade entirely open.

We cannot think him to blame in this proceeding, nor do we see how he could act otherwise, for although it may be for our interest to determine that we will have all the trade in our hands, that we will employ our own people to make salt, take every article of the produce of the country off the ground at the first hand, and afterwards send it which way we please, free of customs; we say though it may be for our interest to make this unlimited use of our force, yet it is not to be expected the Nawab will join with us in endeavoring to deprive every Merchant of the country of the means of carrying on their business, which must undoubtedly soon be the case if they are obliged to pay heavy duties, and we trade in every article on the footing before mentioned. Neither in our opinion could the Nawab in such circumstances collect enough to pay the expense of the chokeys, collectors, &c., so that trade would be liable to clogs and interruptions without any benefit to the Government.

As to the Nawab's rights to lay trade open, it is our opinion that the Nazim of every Province has a right to do any thing for the relief of the Merchants trading under his protection without waiting an order from the Court; besides there is at this time no Court nor King, nor has been for some years, and therefore the Nazims must of necessity manage their several Governments as they shall judge best for the general good.

And if either the Nawab Serajoo Dowla, Jaffier Ally Khan, or Cossim Ally Khan have a right to give up to us these duties which their predecessors received, or permit us to trade in articles we were before excluded from; of course they have a right also to make regulations in favor of trade in general.

We therefore think that all we have to do on this occasion is to take such precautions as may prevent this order from prejudicing the Company's investments by seeing that the weavers employed in that service are not engaged or taken away by other merchants, which is a right we have always exercised; and this being done we hope the present

Regulation instead of being a prejudice to the Company's business, may be an advantage to it, as well as to the country in general, by rendering the necessaries of life cheaper, and particularly those of the poorer sort, as Rice, Salt, Betelnut, Tobacco, &c.*

647.—*Coja Petruse, the Armenian merchant.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 24.]

Mr. Batson lays before the Board the following Minute:—

"The evil designs of the Nawab against us appearing now in a glaring light, and it being well known through the whole country that Coja Petruse, the Armenian, acts as the Nawab's spy in this place, Mr. Batson proposed that he and his family be turned out of Calcutta immediately, and desires it may be put to the vote."

The motion contained therein being put to the vote agreeably to Mr. Batson's desire, the Members delivered their opinions, Mr. Watts stated—

"Petruse is well known to be an intriguing person and to have raised himself, I believe, being a spy betwixt us and Seraja Dowla, and during Colonel Clive's Government was ordered to quit this Settlement and not to have any connections at the Durbar, for having spread and told the Chutta Nawab Meeran that Colonel Clive intended to take away his life, I therefore think he ought to be ordered to quit this Settlement, that his constituents cannot suffer any losses by our taking such a step as his business can be carried on equally the same as when he was absent in a late visit to the Nawab."†

648.—*Victualling French prisoners.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 28.]

Proposals for victualling the French prisoners on their passage from hence to the Island Mauritius on board the *Ganges* cartel ship, now in the service of the Hon'ble United East India Company.

* The rest of the Council were opposed to this, considering that 9 per cent. levied on all natives trading while they the English were exempt, served as a protective duty.

† The President pointed out that ordering a merchant of long standing out of the Settlement would be arbitrary, and would shake all confidence; but he was forbidden to act for the future as Vakil to the Nawab.

The Officers shall be allowed fresh provisions of all kinds procurable here, a sufficient quantity of coffee, tea and bread and butter in the morning, and arrack punch at and after meals, as much as they can use at the rate of three Rupees per day, Arcot. Should it be thought necessary to indulge them with Wine after dinner and supper, such an additional allowance as the Hon'ble Board shall deem equal to the expense.

The common people shall be allowed salt beef and pork four times a week, rice, dholl and ghee every day, pease soup and Bengal cheese on the three banian days, a dram every morning and punch on Sundays, at the rate of half a Rupee Arcot a man per day.

649.—*The Nawab on the abolition of duties.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 30.]

Received two letters from the Nawab dated the 6th of the Ramazan or 22nd March in answer to the President's letters of the 7th and 10th. In the one he again informs us that as he never got any thing by collecting the duties, to put an end to all disputes between us, he has entirely abolished the collection of them. That he is not ignorant of the nature of our Firman and Hosbulhookums, but if they entitle us to the rights we mention, he desires to know why they were never before insisted on; he observes that the justice of our chiefs of factories to whom the determination of all disputes is to be referred, turns on beating and abusing his officers and carrying them away bound. That he cannot agree to make good our losses, as he receives nothing from customs, as half his land rents are in our possession, and the other half goes to the payment of his sepoys; that he has sent back the Governor's letter agreeably to our directions. In the other he again repeats that the English Gomastahs having been guilty of many acts of oppression and covered the goods of other merchants in transporting them thro' the country, by which means his customs had been greatly prejudiced, he has for these reasons entirely given up the collection of duties and removed all Chokies wheresoever established.

650.—*The French prisoners complain.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 9.]

Having had the mortification to see that the representations we had the honor to make you the 26th March before we left Calcutta were not favourably received on your side, we embarked with confidence on board

the cartel ship appointed by you to carry us to Mauritius. At our arrival at Ingelee, we found it impossible to proceed on our voyage. The misfortunes which daily happen to your own ships in the river prove to you sufficiently that the season is too far advanced to attempt sending us out; but it is not on this account that we are dispirited; we found this representation upon still more solid reasons, the water that we have is already infected and putrified in such a manner as to occasion daily fresh diseases, we have already twenty sick and one dead, and without any medicines for their relief, and again our ship is so old that it makes two feet water in coming down the river, judge then what it will do at sea.*

651.—*Court of Cutcherry. Attendance at—*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 16.]

The Secretary acquaints the Board that agreeably to their orders of the 9th May, he, last Saturday, attended the Court of Cutcherry and acquainted the Members with the charge the President of the Court had laid against them for non-attendance, to which they had severally answered, as appears upon the face of their proceedings, a copy of which he now lays before the Board at their request.

From a perusal of these proceedings it appears to us there has been a great want of regularity in the manner of conducting the business of the Court, and that the President (Mr. Bolts) had sufficient reason to complain of the difficulty he had in getting a sufficient number of Members to sit, we think however he should first have summoned a full Court and complained there of the particular gentlemen who had not attended, and in case that warning had proved ineffectual he should then have complained to the Board of such particular gentlemen, and not indiscriminately of the whole Court. The answers given by Messrs. Skinner, Laurel, Barwell, Hare and Lane we think sufficiently clear those gentlemen from any imputation of neglect, but that Messrs. Williamson, Shewen and Woodward have merited some censure, because with respect to the two first it appears that the reason why they did not receive the summonses (as they allege in their minutes) was that they were not in town, and with respect to Mr. Woodward the reason for his not attending the 7th May appears to be that he was going to Baraset, which being only parties of amusement should certainly give place to their attendance on their duty.

* The prisoners forced the Captain to return.

The President of the Court of Cutcherry lays before the court a list as given by the servant of the Court Sookoor, which he is ready to attest on oath, shewing the answers he received when sent to summon the gentlemen, as far as he at present recollects, besides many other times before, which escape his memory.

Summoned for the Court to be held the 23rd April 1763.

Gentlemen.	*Answers.*
Mr. Shewen ...	... I am sick.
„ Williamson ...	... I am not a member.

Summoned for the Court of Thursday, the 28th April.

Mr. Shewen ...	... His servant answered he is at Baraset.*
„ Williamson ...	... His servant answered he is at his gardens.
„ Barwell ...	... Being Council day can't attend.
„ Woodward ...	... Being Council day can't attend.
„ Skinner ...	... Cannot go.
„ Laurell ...	... His servant answered he is at Ghyretty.†

Summoned for the Court to be held the 30th April.

Mr. Shewen ...	... His servant answered he is at Baraset.

Summoned for the Court to be held the 2nd May.

Mr. Shewen ...	... At Baraset.
„ Barwell ...	... Being Council day can't attend.
„ Woodward ...	... Being Council day can't attend.

For the Court the 5th May 1763.

Mr. Shewen ...	... At Baraset.
„ Barwell ...	... On the 4th said he could go, but on the 5th did not come.
„ Woodward ...	... Being Council day can't attend.
„ Jeykill ...	... Being busy could not come.

For the Court the 7th May 1763.

„ Woodward ...	... Answers, I am going to Baraset.
„ Jeykill ...	... I am going out of town.‡

* Baraset 10 miles from Calcutta was at that period a favorite retreat for those wishing to enjoy a country life and pig sticking. The way to it lay through Dum-Dum, then on the borders of the Sunderbunds, where Lord Clive had a country house, the highest in the station.

† Ghyretty had a magnificent house erected by the French as a second Versailles noted for festivities in the days of Dupleix, when 120 carriages lined its magnificent avenue.

‡ The Members write very sharp minutes on the President Mr. Bolts' remarks, but he stated that with 688 cases on the list to be decided he had often only another person to help him.

652.—*Medicine bill.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 23.]

The Surgeons send in a Bill for two chests of Medicines purchased by them for the use of the Hospital amounting to Co.'s Rs. 2,783-1-6. Likewise one for dieting the people of the *Walpole* in the Hospital for two months, amounting to Sonat Rs. 212-5-4.

653.—*A business Agent for Backerganj.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 23.]

SIR,—Please to inform the Hon'ble Board that I intend very shortly to send Mr. Thomas Bristow to Backergunge to transact some business for me there, and that I am ready to be security for his good conduct agreeably to the orders of the Board.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

CALCUTTA: 15*th May* 1763. } (Signed) P. DOWNES.

654.—*Burdwan disbanded Troops.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 6.]

On the 3rd instant we received a further letter from Burdwan dated the 2nd, requesting our orders in regard to one Meer Ram Ali, a dismissed Jemadar of the Rajah's, who he acquaints us has for some time past been raising men for the Nawab's service, and was to leave Burdwan with 40 or 50 horse at 5 in the morning to join Mahomed Tuckey Khan at the city. That as private advices give him great reason to imagine a rupture was near at hand, he requested our orders how to act should it ensue, also in regard to Ramdavenaijue, who was so great a fomenter of the former troubles in Burdwan, whether we judge it proper that he should keep a guard of peons or sepoys to look after him and prevent his entering into any intrigues to the prejudice of the province.*

* Mr. Batson stated the Nawab stopped the Gentlemen going to Patna, but Warren Hastings shewed he made a mistake through ignorance of the original Persian as the translator had rendered the word *Sirder*, or native chief, by gentleman.

655.—*Sipahi's obstructions. W. Hastings in the timber trade.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 6.]

Received a letter from Dacca dated the 29th of May, acquainting us how the sepoys came to be left at Chilmaree and vindicating their conduct in that affair. It also contains many complaints against Mr. Moore (the Governor's Agent at Rungpore) for using unjust means to obstruct the business of other Traders, and against several Agents at Backergunge for making bad uses of sepoys which they are permitted to have under their direction, and particularly instances those stationed under Messrs. Rose and Kelly, two persons, agents for Mr. Hastings. It further encloses us their Register of Dustucks for the year 1762 together with the following papers:—

Consultations for March and April.
Treasury Accounts
Cash Accounts } for March and April.
Charges General

This Dacca letter being read

Mr. Hastings delivered in the following minute in respect to the mention made of him and his Agents. "I am very sorry to see a complaint made in so formal a manner by the gentlemen at Dacca against me. Some time ago a large body of Fakeers infesting the country about Backergunge surrounded Mr. Kelly, my Agent, and put him in great danger of his life as I was informed by letters from Captain Rose and Mr. Campbell. For this reason I requested the Governor to send a few people to his rescue. The fakeers have since quitted the country and it was my intention to have recalled the sepoys, but by ill health and attention to other affairs I forgot it, so far only I am willing to take upon me the blame of the sepoys continuing yet with Mr. Kelly, who were ordered to be employed only in the protection of his own life and effects, and if he has made any ill use of them, let the gentlemen of Dacca prove it, and I desire he may be brought down and publicly punished for it. My reason for procuring a guard of 4 sepoys for Captain Rose is that he is employed in collecting a great number of timbers belonging to me and other gentlemen which are now scattered in many different places in the rivers lying between Dacca and Backergunge, and where you, gentlemen, will easily conceive the necessity of his having some defence

against the robbers which continually infest these parts. If you think them improper they shall be immediately recalled. But I cannot help taking notice of the instance produced by the gentlemen of Dacca of his using them for acts of oppression.*

656.—*Cartridge Paper bad.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 6.]

The Military Store-keeper sends in a letter wherein he informs us that the cartridge paper manufactured here is only made use of for exercising cartridges, being subject to the same defects which the gentlemen at Madras complain of.

657.—*Victualling Contracts.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 6.]

The Secretary reports that, agreeably to the Resolution of the Board, the contracts for victualling the Army and furnishing bullocks were put up at public sale on the 7th instant at the Town House, and again purchased by Mr. Parker Hatley at the following rates, viz. :—

For victualling the Europeans A. Rs. 10-0-0 each man per month.
For furnishing draft bullocks „ 7-4-0 each per month.
„ „ Carriage „ two-thirds of the price of the draft.
For feeding Elephants, Camels, &c., the former rates.

658.—*A Quarrel in the Council Chamber. Mr. Batson's Minute.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 10.]

Mr. Batson delivered in the following Minute :—

The extraordinary manner in which the Governor and Mr. Hastings have espoused the Nabob's cause and defended all his actions, however dishonorable or detrimental to the Company or the Nation, make it manifest to me that they act the part rather of his retained solicitors than of servants of the Company or British subjects. It is plain to me that the Governor in preventing the resolutions of yesterday's Council from

* Governor Vansittart this year freighted along with some merchants a ship for England

being carried into execution is acting in concert with the Nabob in order to protract time, I therefore give it as my opinion that his stopping the letters writ by the Board yesterday to Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, to Patna, and Mr. Verelst is unjustifiable, and that no alterations should be made in the resolutions of yesterday.

Upon this a dispute and quarrel ensued between Messrs. Batson and Hastings, after which Mr. Hastings entered the following Minute :—

Mr. Batson making some unbecoming reflections on the Governor, I replied thereto, and I appeal to the Board whether in any indecent or provoking terms, upon which Mr. Batson gave me the lie and struck me, in the presence of the Board, I leave to them to take such notice as they may think proper of the indignity offered to themselves by this step of Mr. Batson's. For my own part I cannot think of sitting any longer at a Board where I am subjected to such insults.

The reference Mr. Hastings desires in his Minute having been made to the Board, the gentlemen are unanimously of opinion that there was nothing in what he said to Mr. Batson either indecent or provoking.

Mr. Hastings, having received this opinion from the gentlemen, withdrew from the Board.

Mr. Batson desires the Board to take notice that Mr. Hastings gave him the lie before any blows happened, and that whatever his words were, the expressions of his countenance were provoking.

The Board observe on Mr. Batson's answer that Mr. Hastings only retorted the lie, whereupon blows ensued, in which Mr. Batson struck first.

Here Mr. Batson also withdrew from the Board, and—

Mr. Billers took the chair as President.

The Board, taking into consideration the circumstances of the unlucky dispute between Messrs. Batson and Hastings, are unanimously of opinion that Mr. Batson's behaviour was very injurious to Mr. Hastings, as well as highly affrontive and unbecoming to them. That therefore a full Council ought to be summoned and Mr. Batson requested to make such satisfaction as the members thereof shall judge proper and the Company's orders do in such cases direct.

And that in the meantime the Secretary should immediately transmit to each of these gentlemen the following :—

"Sir,—As the Members of the Board are unanimously of opinion "you should keep your house till such time as the unhappy dispute

"between you and Mr. Hastings (you and Mr. Batson) shall be adjudged "by them, they hereby direct that you give strict obedience thereto."

By order &c.,

(Sd.) T. GRAHAM,
Secretary.

Agreed further that the Secretary do wait this evening on the Governor and acquaint him with the affair, and if his health will possibly permit, request his presence at the Board next Monday.

The President delivers in his opinion as follows:—

I am inexpressibly concerned at what I read upon the Minutes of the 10th instant of the indignity done to the Board by the violence committed by Mr. Batson against Mr. Hastings at the Council table. It is an indignity which will be spoken of to our dishonor at all times and in all places by all sorts of people. I must own the account of this unhappy event did not greatly surprise me, because I can recollect, as I believe most of the gentlemen here may also, more than one instance of unprovoked insulting language spoken to myself in the same place by Mr. Batson, in such a temper that, had I not been armed with an immoveable resolution to reply in the most moderate terms, it is likely he would have proceeded to the last and grossest insult that can be offered by one gentleman to another, in like manner as he did to Mr. Hastings. Hitherto I have always regarded such unaccountable sallies of passion with more pity than resentment, but since in the present case it has unhappily been productive of the greatest indignity a public body can suffer, it is proper the Board should consider what notice to take of the aggressor. It is, I believe, an unprecedented case, as I never heard of such a violence committed in any of the Company's Governments since their first establishment; for my own part, as I have seen many instances of Mr. Batson's ungovernable passion, I think every assembly at which he is present is in continual danger of being thus disturbed, and therefore to prevent misfortunes of the like nature in future, as well as to vindicate the honor of the Board in the case now before us, it is my opinion he should be suspended from the Hon'ble Company's Service until the pleasure of the Court of Directors is known.*

* The majority of Council voted for his suspension, but on his making a full apology, the majority voted for his restoration to office and resuming his place in the Council, but the President refusing to sit with him, it was decided he was to have the minutes of each Council after their meeting to record his view—but in his own house.

A violence of a far inferior nature is given by the Court of Directors as the first reason for dismissing one of the principal Council of this Presidency in the year 1748, which shows that it is not their design the Members of the Council assembled for the management of their business, should be exposed to any violence or insult upon a different opinion arising. For my own part, I have too much respect for myself and for those we represent, to sit at the same Board with a person who has been guilty of such a violence, and having the same regard for all the rest of my fellow servants, I cannot vote that any of them should be exposed to unprovoked insult in the discharge of their duty to the Company.

659.—*Famine apprehended in Bahar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 13.]

Received a letter from Patna, dated the 3rd instant, advising us that they had come to a resolution of purchasing a stock of grain on account of the Company, as they have great reason to apprehend a famine in the province, and are informed that no more boats with grain will be suffered to pass Monghyr.

660.—*The Nawab's Complaint of the Troops.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 17.]

Received a letter from Messrs. Amyatt and Hay, dated 8th instant, acquainting us that the Nabob has complained of our troops, which are gone towards Cachar, having seized his darogah, appointed for providing aloes, wood and elephant's teeth, and stopped the wood, elephant's teeth, &c.

661.—*Sylhet, State of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 17.]

Received a letter from Mr. Verelst, dated the 29th May, advising us that the Rajah of Jyntea, a country that joins Cachar on the west and the province of Sylhet on the north, has, on pretence of an old debt, formed a design against that province, and that he further suspects his intentions to be with a view of distressing his party and cutting off their provisions; that he shall therefore move immediately towards Bongah as well to prevent this as to give his assistance to the Phousdar of Sylhet, if it becomes necessary.

662.—*The Burdwan Canungos.**

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 17.]

The President acquaints the Board that the Canoongoes of the Burdwan Province have again applied to him for their annual allowance, which is included in the article of Muskoorat or allowance to the zemindar, for the expense of servants, &c.

663.—*Burdwan Dakaits.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 20.]

Received a letter from Burdwan, dated the 18th instant, advising us that a number of dacoits having lately infested the province and committed many robberies and murders, he has at last found out from the Thannadar and Gomashtah of the village of Chunderdeep that their haunt is in the village of Ogoorda in the Hooghly district; that he therefore encloses copy of a letter to the Fouzdar of Hooghly and an order to a Havildar of Sepoys for seizing them, which he has wrote and purposes, with our approbation, to carry into execution.

664.—*Road to Warren Hastings' House.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 20.]

Mr. Hastings requests permission of the Board to build a bridge over the Collighaut Nulla on the road to his Garden House.† Agreed, his request be complied with.

665.—*The Dutch at Malda.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 23.]

Agreed we write, in answer to Malda, that it is not in our power to lay the Dutch Gomastahs under any control in their trade, but that we think he (the Resident) may always oblige the weavers, who are under contracts with him, to abide by and fulfil them.‡

* The Canoongoes were among the few relics of the village system that remained in Bengal; they were a kind of registrar to the village headman.

† This was to the west of Belvidere House, the residence of the Governor of Bengal.

‡ The Gomastahs of the Dutch were accused of being of great detriment to the English investment by their clandestine purchases from the weavers engaged to the Company.

666.—*Salary for balancing Books.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 27.]

Mr. William Madge, having balanced the General Books up to the 30th of April 1759, delivers over the same to the Sub-Accomptant and sends in a bill for his salary from the 20th of December 1761 to the 20th June 1763, is one year and six months, at A. Rs. 2,500 per annum, amounts to A. Rs. 3,750.

667.—*The Dâks stopped at Rajmahal.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 30.]

Mr. Chambers of Cossimbazar writes:—The Fouzdar of Rajmahal* having seized the dauks and letters despatched the 25th instant and made them prisoners, all the dauks are fled from their posts, and all the letters despatched since are returned.

668.—*Nawab's Letter of Protest to the President.*†

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 7.]

In my heart I believed Mr. Ellis to be my inveterate enemy, but from his actions I now find he was inwardly my friend, as appears by this step which he has added to the others. Like a night robber he assaulted the Killa of Patna, robbed and plundered the bazar and all the merchants and inhabitants of the city, ravaging and slaying from the morning till the 3rd pahur (afternoon); then I requested of you 2 or 300 muskets laden on boats, you would not consent to it. This unhappy man in consequence of his inward friendship favoured me in this fray and slaughter with all the muskets and cannon of his army, and is himself relieved and eased from his burden since it never was my desire to injure the affairs of the Company; whatever loss may have been occasioned by this unhappy man to myself in this tumult, I pass over, but you Gentlemen must answer for any injury which the Company's affairs have suffered, and since you have unjustly and cruelly ravaged the city and

* The dâk from Calcutta to Benares at that period was *viâ* Agradip, Murshedabad, Rajmahal, Sikriguli, Bhaugulpur, &c.

† This letter, written June 28, was received the same day; the same day, July the 7th, war was declared against the Nawab and his deposition was announced; both Hastings and Verelst stood neutral regarding the war, thinking it to be unjust.

destroyed the people, and plundered effects to the value of Lacs of Rupees, it becomes the justice of the Company to make reparation to the poor, as formerly was done for Calcutta. You Gentlemen were wonderful friends. Having made a treaty to which you pledged the name of Jesus Christ, you took from me a country to pay the expenses of your Army, with the condition that your Troops should always attend me, and promote my affairs. In effect you kept up a Force for my destruction, since from their hands such events have proceeded. I am entirely of opinion that the Company favours me, in causing to be delivered to me the rents for three years of my country. Besides this, for the violences and oppressions exercised by the English Gomastahs for several years past in the Territories of the Nizamut, and the large sums extorted, and the losses occasioned by them, it is proper and just that the Company make restitution at this time. This is all the trouble you need to take. In the same manner as you took Burdwan and the other lands, you must favor me in resigning them.

669.—*Warren Hastings' Minute on the War with the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 8.]

It was my resolution as soon as a war should be declared to resign the Company's service, being unwilling on the one hand to join in giving authority to past measures of which I disapproved, and to a new establishment which I judged detrimental to the honor and interests of the Company, and apprehensive on the other, that my continuance at the Board might serve only to prejudice rather than advance the good of the service in keeping alive by my presence the disputes which have so long disturbed our Councils, and retarding the public business by continual dissents and protests. But since our late melancholy advices give us reason to apprehend a dangerous and troublesome war, and from the unparallelled acts of barbarity and treachery with which it has opened on the part of the Nabob, it becomes the duty of every British subject to unite in the support of the common cause, it is my intention to join my endeavours for the good of the service as long as the war shall last.*

* Warren Hastings consistently and steadily opposed, along with Mr. Vansittart, in Council, those measures of the majority which tended to bring about a rupture with the Nawab.

670.—*The Expulsion of the English from Patna.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 11.]

Further intelligence from Patna was received in a letter from the Dutch Director giving an extract of a letter wrote by John Bacheracht, Chief, and Mr. Andries Surgen Schultz, second of the Dutch Factory at Patna, to the Hon'ble Louis Taillefert and the rest of the Council at Chinsurah, dated 27th June 1763.

"The English remained no longer Masters of the City than the noon of the morrow of the conquest of it, as soon as they were possessed of the city the sepoys gave themselves up to plunder, the Europeans were likewise scattered about here and there in common, which was followed by a beating of the drums to warn the inhabitants to remain quiet, without fear of being robbed or ill-used. In the meanwhile the Governor of the city fled to some Troops who were come from Monghyr and had approached Jaffier Khan's garden, and returned with the same towards the city. Understanding the disorder and carelessness of the English, he entered with his Troops, sword in hand, killing every one who on this unexpected accident made resistance. Not being able to save themselves by flight, as many of the English as could get together, which we are assured did not exceed 300 men, the remains of 2,000, retired into the Factory, and defended themselves against their enemies, that afternoon, the night and yesterday the whole day till the evening, so that the other side was incessant. The rest were obliged yesterday to fly by parties over the sand flats and cross the river. About the middle of the night we saw the flames arise from several salt golahs and the stables near the English Factory, soon after was heard a heavy firing from the lower part of the town of the Fort. This morning we understood that the English had evacuated their Factory and retired, but whither we know not for certain, but in all likelihood to the bottom, the firing from the Fort having most probably sunk the boat it fired upon."

671.—*The Danes and Phausdar of Hugly.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 21.]

Received a letter from Fredericknagore dated the 18th instant, acquainting us that the new Fouzdar of Hooghly has made a demand on them for the quarterly tribute of their Factory, although they paid

it but a few days ago to the old Fouzdar, and therefore requesting our interposition to have them absolved from the payment of that, or any other tax, until the Government of the country is settled. The President acquainting the Board that immediately upon the receipt of this letter he wrote to the Fouzdar to desist from his demand.

672.—*Debtors' distresses.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 8.]

We Members of the Court of Cutcherry being frequently informed of the distresses of several of the persons confined in our prison for debt for a length of time, and others who have a prospect of undergoing the same fate, through the malice and inhumanity of their creditors, resolved to make enquiry into their several grievances and find some of their cases as follows :—

1st.—That the debtor after having given up all his effects, the creditor has still detained him in prison, though he does not believe the prisoner has secreted any of his effects.

2nd.—That a debtor has not been able to pay the amount of the Decree at once, but willing to pay a part down, and the remainder by Kistbundee, which the creditor has refused, insisting upon being paid the whole at one payment.

3rd.—Some debtors not being inhabitants of Calcutta, are not able to procure Hazzur Jammin or Mahl Jammin, as it is unknown whether they are really possessed of wealth or not.*

673.—*The Zemindar of Midnapur in arrears of Rent.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 22.]

Received letters from Midnapore advising us that the Mynachowra Rajah has paid no rents since 1st July, and therefore requesting we will order what measures he is to take with him.

* They complain also of one case of Natives remaining pending for six months in consequence of one of the Defendants Kánta Kalmá being in the service of the Danes at Serampur, but he always evaded coming or even giving any satisfactory answer.

Agreed we write him for answer that we can only at present recommend to him to take all possible lenitive measures for recovering his rents; that should he still continue refractory, we shall as soon as our forces can be spared from more material service to take care to make him answer for all his arrears and put it out of his power to be guilty of any further bad behaviour.

674.—*Action in Birbhum.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 5.]

The President lays before the Board the two following letters received from Captain McLean:—

I this morning attacked Suras Beg near Soorie in Beerbhoom, his Force consisted of about 300 horse and about 400 foot, with 5 pieces of cannon. After a short engagement the enemy ran and left us in possession of all their guns, and afterwards abandoned the Fort.

Two hours after I received intelligence from many different people that Caunder Khan was arrived within 6 coss of me with 6,000 Patan Horse, a few Europeans, I suppose Portuguese and Armenians, and a thousand Sepoys, with cannon; thinking myself no way capable to oppose so formidable a Force, I am now making my disposition for a hasty retreat, after nailing up the guns, burning the carriages and the Fort. I have lost 10 or 15 Sepoys.

I am, Sir, with respect,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) L. McLEAN.

FORT OF SOORIE,
30th August, 10 *at night.*

675.—*Captain Tinker to be waited on.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 5.]

The President informing the Board that this expected division of the Fleet will be commanded by Captain Tinker.

Agreed that Mr. McGwire and Mr. Marriott do proceed down the river as a deputation from the Board to pay our compliments to him at his arrival and wait upon him to Town.

676.—*The Nawab threatens to cut off the heads of the English.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 17.]

Translation of a letter from the Nabob Cossim Ally Khan to Major Adams, dated 30th of Seffer or 9th September, and received the 3rd of Rubbee-ool-awul or 12th September 1763 at Sukkreegullee.

That for these three months you have been laying waste the King's country with your Forces, what authority have you? If you are in possession of any Royal Sunnud for my dismission you ought to send me either the original or a copy of it, that having seen it and shown it to my army, I may quit this country and repair to the presence of His Majesty. Although I have in no respect intended any breach of public faith, yet Mr. Ellis regarding not Treaties or Engagements in violation of public faith, proceeded against me with treachery and night assaults, all my people then believed that no peace or terms now remained with the English, and that wherever they could be found it was their duty to kill them. With this opinion it was that the Aumils of Moorshedabad killed Mr. Amyatt. But it was by no means agreeable to me that that gentleman should be killed. On this account I write, that if you are resolved on your own authority to proceed in this business, know for a certainty that I will cut off the heads of Mr. Ellis and the rest of your Chiefs and send them to you.

To this the President sent the following reply:—

Mr. Amyatt and Mr. Hay were sent to you as ambassadors, a title sacred among all nations, yet in violation to that title you caused Mr. Amyatt to be attacked and killed on his return, after having given him your passports, and Mr. Hay you unjustly kept as a prisoner with you. You surrounded and attacked our Factory at Cossimbazar and carried away our Gentlemen from thence prisoners in a most disgraceful manner to Monghyr; although they had no concern in the war nor resisted your people, in like manner, in all other parts, you attacked the English Agents, who were carrying on their trade quietly, some you killed and some were carried away prisoners and their effects were everywhere plundered. After these proceedings do you ask for what reason Major Adams was sent with an Army? You know the laws of God and Man; as you had declared you would turn the English out of the country and had proceeded as far as you could towards it, it became necessary for us to take measures for our own defence and for the care of our own reputation.

To put prisoners of war to death is an act which will appear shocking and unlawful not only to Christians and Mussulmen, but to the most barbarous Pagans; such sentiments are no where to be met with, but among the beasts of the forest. After the battle of Ouda Nullah above a thousand of your officers and men were prisoners in the hands of Major Adams, who released them without the least hurt or injury.

677.—*The President gives Commissions.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 26.]

The President acquaints the Board that he has also granted the following commissions in the Infantry to

Messrs. Claude Martin,*	Ensigns, from the	5th September.
„ Warr Squires and		20th September.
„ Henry Bevan		21st September.

To Lieut. James Morgan, Quarter Master, in the room of Captain Cozens, from the 15th September.

678.—*Burdwan, a boundary against the Mahrattas.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 3.]

Major Adams writes that as he thinks it of the utmost consequence to form an army in the provinces of Burdwan and Beerbhoom for guarding against irruptions from the Mahrattas or any other enemies, he has ordered Major Carnac to proceed to Calcutta to concert with us the proper measures for that purpose.

679.—*Passengers treatment on Board.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 3.]

Three Gentlemen writers, who have come passengers, upon the usual question being put regarding the treatment they met with on the passage.

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* Was this the man celebrated afterwards as General Martin, the founder of the Martiniere?

Mr. Palmer complains that Captain Webber did not entertain him at his table, but kept a separate table for the Company's servants below, although free merchants and other passengers were admitted to the table in the Round house.*

680.—*Letters to the Nawab and Monsieur Gentil.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 3.]

Copy of a letter wrote by Major Adams to Cossim Ally Khan.

I received your letter and understood the contents. The English having always had in view the articles of the treaty endeavoured by pacific measures to reconcile all differences with you, till the perfidious massacre of Mr. Amyatt compelled them contrary to their inclination to declare war against you. You say it was not your intention to murder Mr. Amyatt, why then did you not punish the aggressors with the utmost severity? There are three months elapsed and nothing done, we have now by the assistance of Providence brought your affairs to a very low ebb. It is true you have Mr. Ellis and many other gentlemen in your power; if a hair of their heads is hurt you can have no title to mercy from the English and you may depend upon the utmost fury of their resentment, and that they will pursue you to the utmost extremity of the earth. Should we unfortunately not lay hold of you the vengeance of the Almighty cannot fail overtaking you, if you perpetrate so horrid an act as the murder of the gentlemen in your custody.

To Mr. Gentil.

Sir,—We cannot doubt that being a gentleman and a soldier there must have been some unlucky circumstances, which have led you into a conduct so unworthy of both, as that of having forfeited your parole of honour, and which may contribute in some measure to exculpate you. We are persuaded also that it must have been the most absolute necessity only which could have engaged you in so dishonorable a service to a Christian as that of the Moors, who always treat with the grossest brutality those of our religion and Europeans when it is in their power to do it with impunity. A favorable opportunity now offers to enable

* The Captain being summoned before the Board stated that owing to his vessel being overcrowded he had to keep two tables, one for ladies and those furthest advanced in life, the other for younger persons; the Council accepted his explanation for the present, but ordered that in future "Company's Servants have the preference of the table and the apartments provided for them by Charter Party."

you to rid yourself of so irksome a slavery and to reconcile yourself with our nation, towards which you cannot deny but you have acted very improperly (and which is now at peace with yours).* If you can contrive means for the delivery of our gentlemen from the power of Cossim Ally Khan and will convey them to us, you may place a firm reliance on the gratitude of the English; and we promise you fifty thousand Rupees immediately.

We are, &c.,
(Sd.) THOS. ADAMS.
„ JOHN CARNAC.

CAMP AT COLGONG,
The 19th September 1763.

681.—*Coja Gregory's fate.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 10.]

The President lays before the Board the following letter received from the Major this morning.

DEAR SIR,—We had a report yesterday that Coja Gregory has been wounded some days ago by a party of his Mogul cavalry who mutinied for want of their pay between Sovage Gurree and Nabob Gunge, it is just now confirmed by a hurcarra arrived from the enemy, with this addition that he died next day and that 40 principal people concerned were put to death upon the occasion; though it was imagined that the Moguls were induced to affront and assault Coja Gregory by Cossim Ally Khan, who began to be very jealous of him on account of his good behaviour to the English.†

682.—*Monghyr Fort taken.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 17.]

From MAJOR ADAMS, *to the President.*

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that we are now in possession of Monghyr, the breach being last night practicable, I intended to have stormed the fort this morning, but the enemy prevented us that trouble by surrendering at discretion. I believe there are near 300 pieces of cannon, 7 or 8 of them 24-pounders, all the rest Europe guns, about 1,000 stand of firelocks and a great quantity of matchlocks, with a large quantity of all sorts of ammunition and grain.

* The French.

† Coja Gregory was an Armenian and Commander of the Nawab's artillery.

683.—*The massacre of the English at Patna.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 26.]

We yesterday received the following letter from Major Adams, dated 18th instant:—

GENTLEMEN,—The accounts which I have communicated to the President relative to the fate of our Gentlemen at Patna are now confirmed by the arrival of several of their servants in Camp. One Assuck, consumah to Mr. Albright, who gives the most distinct account, I intend to send down to Calcutta for your examination. He says that 12 days ago, at 7 o'clock in the evening, our Gentlemen having drank Tea, were acquainted by Mr. Ellis' servant, that Someroo was arrived with some Sepoys, on which Mr. Ellis immediately ordered a chair to be brought for him, but instead of going to the Gentlemen, he sent away the Mogul who had the charge of them, and went into the back room and gave orders to the servants who were getting supper ready to be gone. He then sent for Messrs. Ellis and Lushington who being acquainted he had private business with them, immediately went to him and were instantly cut down; afterwards Messrs. Hay, Lyon and Jones were sent for and despatched in the same manner, as were likewise Messrs. Chambers, Amphlett and Gulston who were next sent for with Mr. Smith, but he receiving a cut on the shoulder escaped into the room, and acquainted the rest of the Gentlemen who defended themselves with bottles and plates (their knives and forks being taken from them after dinner) and obliged the Sepoys to retire, who immediately loaded their pieces and shot them, 25 were in Irons, the above-mentioned gentlemen with others amounting to 24; more were not in irons. He adds that Captain Wilson, Ensign Mackay, Doctor Campbell and five or six others were murdered at Chalisatoon, where they were confined, with Doctor Fullarton, who was the only gentleman that was not put to death. But that all the English soldiers were yet alive. This horrid massacre was perpetrated the night that Cossim Ally Khan received the President's and my letters.

All accounts likewise agree that Futta Sing, Ramnarain's brother, with 8 or 9 more of Ramnarain's relations were about the same time put to death, and that the Seats were put to death near Baur and their bodies not permitted to be burnt, but exposed under a Guard of Sepoys; the bodies of our Gentlemen were most of them thrown into a well in the compound of the house they were confined in.

They likewise say that immediately on receipt of the news of our storming Ouda Nulla, Cossim Ally Khan ordered all the English to be sent out on the river and sunk there, but was prevented by Coja Gregory who, had he lived, they say, would have prevented this horrid affair.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOS. ADAMS.

CAMP AT BURRIE,
18*th October* 1763.

The Board's Resolution regarding the Massacre.

After reflecting with the most unfeigned sorrow and regret on this act of unparallelled and barbarous cruelty, which we have now no room left to doubt has been perpetrated at Patna by the emissaries of Cossim Ally Khan on the lives of our countrymen who were prisoners in his hands; although in the ordinary and usual calamities of war it becomes the business of the Heads of a Government to avoid shewing any marks of public concern which may be attended with the bad effects of depressing the spirits of a Colony, yet as the situation of our affairs is such as to give no occasion for apprehending any ill consequences to our public operations from a contrary conduct at this time, and the present calamity being in itself of so singular and heavy a nature, we think it highly proper to enter upon some public methods of manifesting to the world our concern on this occasion, as well because it is a necessary tribute to the memory of the unfortunate gentlemen who have thus fallen the victims of a horrid cruelty, as that it will serve to testify to the Natives of the country the sentiments we feel for the loss of our friends and imply our resolution of revenging their untimely fate.

It is therefore agreed and ordered that a general deep mourning shall be observed in the settlement for the space of fourteen days to commence next Wednesday, the 2nd of November.

That the morning of that day shall be set apart and observed as a public fast and humiliation, and that intimation be accordingly given to the chaplains to be prepared with a sermon and forms of prayer suitable to the occasion.

That the evening before, immediately after firing the 8 o'clock gun, Minute guns shall be fired from the ships and the Fort which Commodore Tinker having been so obliging as to join us in the marks of our concern

will begin from His Majesty's ship *Liverpool,* to be taken up first from the old, and next from the new Fort, and then to be succeeded by the *Osterley* and *Boscawen,* the Company's ships, which lay at anchor off town, and as Captain Tinker also mentions that he will send orders to the same effect to His Majesty's ships *Medway* and *York* at Kedgeree, that the Company's ships *Deptford, Lord Clive,* and *Pigot* which are laying at Culpee be directed to follow their example.

The better to answer the end proposed by adding to the solemnity of this ceremony, it is strictly ordered that the old Fort do not begin to fire till the *Liverpool* has ceased firing, the new Fort to take up the fire from the old Fort in the same manner, and so the ships according to the order they are here mentioned in.

After paying this necessary duty to the memory of our countrymen, we are further agreed and determined to use all the means in our power for taking an ample revenge on the persons who may have been concerned in this horrid execution, and with a view of deterring in future all ranks and degrees of people from ordering or executing such acts of barbarity.

Resolved therefore that a Manifesto of the action be published throughout all the country, with a proclamation promising an immediate reward of a Lack of Rupees to any person or persons who shall seize and deliver up to us Cassim Ally Khan, and that he or they shall further receive such other marks of favor and encouragement as may be in our power to shew in return for this act of public justice.

That an immediate reward of Rs. 40,000 shall be given to any person or persons who shall apprehend the Chief named Summereau and bring him a prisoner to us.

684.—*Assistants' hours in Office.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 3.]

All the Assistants in General to attend the Offices from 8 o'clock in the morning till 12, and on Council days until the Council shall break up, and also to attend in the afternoon as often as the Secretary may direct.*

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* This was a re-issuing of the old order in consequence of a despatch from the Court, as the Board often complained of the negligence of many of the Assistants in the different offices. At this period the Government formed the Secret Department to Embrace all Military plans, and operations as well as correspondence with the Country Government.

685.—*Silk, improving the growth of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 10.]

Mr. Joseph Pouchon sends in a letter offering his service for improving the growth of the silk-worms, and thereby to increase the quantity of raw silk. Ordered his letter to be entered, and as there is at present a small quantity of silk-worms produced in the Azimabad Pergunnah, Agreed that Mr. Marriott the Collector of it do send Mr. Pouchon thither to try if he can increase their number, or improve their quality, and that he do furnish him with orders to the Shaikdar to give him all necessary assistance.

To the HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQ., *President, and Governor and Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—The consumption of silk being very considerable in England, and for to give you a more just idea of it, is that since these 36 years past that I have lived in London, the consumption was then but about 3,500 bales per annum and gradually it has increased till now to about 16,000 bales, and by the knowledge that I have of that branch of trade from its beginning to the end, and having examined since I have been in this part of the world that the air and soil are extremely good for Mulberry Trees, I am persuaded that with some proper alterations (by no means attended with any more expenses nor labor to the poor people in the countries where the silk grows than before) we can raise silk-worms to some degree of perfection and make good cocoons, which is the principal article and by this means we may flatter ourselves to produce good silk to the great advantage of the Company, and in time it would save a great deal of money to England, and moreover increase greatly the revenues of this country. Therefore, Gentlemen, I take the liberty to present you this plan in offering you my humble services, not only in that but in any thing else that you will think I am capable to do for the good of the Company. I submit the whole under your wise reflections.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect, gentlemen,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
(Sd.) JOSEPH POUCHON.

CALCUTTA,
10*th November* 1763.

686.—*French families, subsistence of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 17.]

The President lays before the Board an account of the distribution of the thousand Rupees allowed monthly for the subsistence of the distressed French families at Chandernagore and Fredericknagore.*

* They were French prisoners; the money was granted by Government.

État des subsistances distribuée aux familles Françoises de Chandernagor le mois de Novembre 1763. *Scavoir.*

MESDAMES—

St. Denis	...	30	0 0
Mesdemoiselles Boutet et St. Denis	...	20	0 0
Champigny	...	30	0 0
Tierreville	...	30	0 0
Feburier	...	30	0 0
Vasnier	...	30	0 0
Guesnois	...	30	0 0
La Roise	...	30	0 0
Delabieteisse	...	35	0 0
Cesar	...	30	0 0
Rauly	...	30	0 0
Charpentier	...	30	0 0
Castin	...	25	0 0
Mener et Stroder	...	40	0 0
Gravier par ordre M. Renault	...	30	0 0
Made. D'espence	...	20	0 0
Laine	...	15	0 0
		485	0 0

Les enfans de Ianviron 8 ...	...	0	0 0
Olivier ... 12 ...	...	20	0 0
La femme de Gaspar, Pilotte ...	...	8	0 0
Ve. Duval	...	7	0 0
Ve. Tiesser	...	7	0 0
Ve. Christian	...	7	0 0
Ve. Louis Elhic	...	6	0 0
Ve. St. Jean	...	6	0 0
La femme De Montbriant ...	...	6	0 0
Ve. Bourgignon	...	4	0 0
Ve. Gregiore Krorbee ...	...	4	0 0
Ve. Flaman	...	4	0 0
Ve. Goordre	...	3	0 0
Janone Ve. Loyes caporal ...	...	3	0 0
Catherine Ve. Jean Reux canonier	...	3	0 0
Ve. Therot	...	4	8 0
Ve. St. Francoise	...	4	8 0
La famille de Rogou ...	...	4	8 0
Ditto De Rammat ...	...	2	8 0
Au Greffier	...	20	0 0
Aux orpheliner Du Perrot ...	...	10	0 0
At. Rs.	...	619	0 0

A FREDERICKNAGER.

Sinfray	...	30	0 0
Latouesse	...	30	0 0
Marie francoise hachon M. Augor	...	20	0 0
Lau Monier	...	30	0 0
Do. pour divers pauvres ...	...	20	0 0
Au Chirurgien	..	30	0 0
A do pour Jannont ancien servitour de Hospital	...	4	0 0
Ve. Demitre	...	25	0 0
Ve. Jubles	...	25	0 0
A la femme de pauvre Pilotte	...	15	0 0
Ve. Christopher	...	15	0 0
Au Petit puiller	...	8	0 0
Ve. Bretonnet	...	7	0 0
Ve. Dubarley	...	7	0 0
Ve. Linge	...	7	0 0
Ve. Blanche ou Blanchard ...	...	4	0 0
Ve. Bourge	...	4	0 0
Ve. Antoine Malte ...	...	4	0 0
Ve. fille dignace Surin canoine	...	4	0 0
Louis ou Ve. Gerin ...	...	4	0 0
Rodrique	...	4	0 0
Phascal Ve. de Jean Cotton ...	...	3	0 0
Ve. Estienne de Campo ...	...	3	12 0
Ve. Guepin	...	2	4 0
Ve. Gibelle	...	1	0 0
		920	0 0

INVALIDES.

Bourneass	...	12	0 0
Le Clerk	...	8	0 0
Martin	...	8	0 0
		954	0 0
St. Ange	...	8	0 0
Jacques Mour	...	5	8 0
Jean toty...	...	4	0 0
Claude Robert Boudin dit Cadet	...	5	0 0
Jarou Saranque	...	8	0 0
Joseph Rodriguez Canoine Portugais	...	5	0 0
Colbran Canonier	...	4	8 0
Au fille de tyxavier ...	...	6	0 0
At. Rs.	...	1,000	0 0

RAUTY.

CHANDERNAGORE,
Ce 1st November 1763.

687.—*Coja Petruse's Defence of his loyalty.**

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 21.]

Your petitioner begs leave to observe to this Hon'ble Board at Ouda Nulla, a place where the enemy had strong works and great forces, your petitioner by direction from Major Adams wrote two letters to Marcan and Arratoon, two Armenian Officers, who amongst others commanded the enemy's forces, and intimated to them that as the English always favored and protected the Armenian nation, so the Armenians in justice ought to direct their steps towards the good of the English.

That he is now about 14 or 15 years or thereabouts an inhabitant at this settlement, and took up arms in the factory when Seraja Dowla came down against Calcutta, when the English abandoned this place and retired to Fulta, and were in great distress there for provisions, your petitioner by carrying and bringing letters found means to introduce a correspondence between Rajah Monukchund and Major Kilpatrick, which opened a passage for provisions to the English at Fulta. The King's Firman being lost in the capture of the place, your petitioner with a copy of it that was saved by Mr. Frankland, ventured up to Hooghly and got two attested copies of it drawn out with the Cazie's seal fixed to them, and brought and delivered them to Mr. Drake at Fulta. In short, your petitioner was as useful and serviceable to the English at Fulta as he could, until the arrival of their Forces and the retaking of Calcutta; and your Petitioner was no less serviceable to the English when Seraja Dowla came to attack Calcutta the second time, as he was the person by whose means in carrying and bringing letters between Colonel Clive and Seraja Dowla, a general accommodation and peace was brought about, your petitioner afterwards went up with Mr. Watts to Cossimbazar where he did render all the services that he was ordered very zealously, and the same zeal animating him in spite of the numberless dangers to which he was exposed, he went between the English and Jaffir Aly Khan till the treaty was formed between them, and even to this day whatever the Hon'ble the President and Council have been pleased to order, your petitioner has always faithfully executed.

* Petruse Aratoon or Coja Petruse was supected by Major Adams to have been a spy for the Nawab and was seized as such and ill treated; however he vindicated his character to the Government. His brother commanded the Artillery of the Nawab at Patna, and was subsequently murdered there, the Nawab suspecting him of being too friendly to the English. Had he been alive the massacre might have been prevented through his influence.

688.—*Kiernander, the first missionary to Bengal, allowed a Protestant Portuguese Church for his Converts.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 25.]

The Rev. Mr. Kiernander sends in a letter acquainting us that he is established here by the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge as their Missionary, and requesting we will endeavour to provide him with a place for performing public worship in.

Ordered his letter to be entered, and agreed the Secretary do acquaint him that we will give up the house, which was the Collector's Office, for the purpose of holding the Charity School in, and as the apartments will sufficiently admit of it, that he has our permission to use it also as a church for his converts.

To the HON'BLE HENRY VANSITTART, ESQ., *President, and Governor and Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—Not any private advantage for myself, but the public good, particularly for the poorer sort of the inhabitants of Calcutta, is the motive of this my humble address to your Hon'ble Board. The great and various proofs your honor has given of your charitable inclination in plentifully relieving the needy of all denominations, is what encourages me to ask a further favor, and humbly to offer a method for your honor's executing another charitable deed, from whence with the blessing of God, a continual and lasting benefit may flow to posterity.

The Hon'ble Society for promoting Christian knowledge have thought proper to establish me here at Calcutta as their Missionary, in order to converse with the heathens and to make known to them the true principles of religion, not only, but also to endeavour to bring the erring Roman Catholic Christians to the truth of the gospel.

The greatest part of the inhabitants of Calcutta being of a Popish persuasion, I have made it my business, as far as opportunity has offered, to give them the necessary instructions, and having now most five years once every Sunday preached in the Portuguese language, besides other methods of dispersing books amongst them, some of them have hereby had an opportunity to be better informed, and a small congregation is already gathered, though I have as yet no other place than my dwelling

house for the performing of the Divine service in them. And being not without hopes, but very confident, that many more by the mercy of God will in time open their eyes and seek for the truth.

It would therefore be a real charity if your honor in this respect would extend your care and charity towards a poor, ignorant, and so much deceived people, and procure for them a convenient place for a Protestant Portuguese Church, which as it would be a public benefit for the town, may not be improper that the public should provide the same.

I am also well assured that the Hon'ble Society when so assisted and encouraged in their undertakings, would from time to time send more missionaries and cheerfully support and further so good a work.

I need not mention what advantage it will be to any Protestant Government to have the number of such subjects who are by their very religious principles bound to be haters and enemies, lessened not only, but reduced to the same principles, and which cannot well be expected, so long as they have not an opportunity to be better instructed. I humbly beg therefore that your honor would take this into your kind consideration and add this one favor more to so many already bestowed.

CALCUTTA: 23*rd November* 1763. } JOHN ZACHAR: KIERNANDER.

689.—*Oppression of the Burdwan Ryots.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 5.]

Agreed we acknowledge receipt of the letter from Mr. Johnstone at Burdwan, and inform him that his first care must be to see that the ryots are not oppressed or obliged to pay more to the farmers than they justly ought; that this being strictly attended to, such farmers as have collected their full demands from the ryots, and instead of paying in their rents have withheld them, or made away with the money, must be obliged either by themselves or their securities to make good their balances and be punished and turned out of their Farms; but such as have paid into the cutcherry the full amount of what they have collected from the ryots and their farms are not found to produce the increase which was agreed for, we would not have pressed for their balances, as all severities exercised towards them must tend ultimately to the distress of the ryots, and as by this it appears that the increased rents so agreed for, prove in many articles a deception, we should be glad to receive a

real state of the Jummabundy that may be depended on from the province, and an account of the balances that have arisen to this time from the lands being overrated.

690.—*Dacca Fakirs to be employed as coolies.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 5.]

Received a letter from Dacca dated 29th November desiring our orders with regard to the Fakirs who were taken prisoners at the retaking of Dacca, and informing us that Mahomed Reza Khan has sent them Rs. 1,000 which he found in a fisherman's house, but that there was not any money in the Factory of that specie at the time the place was taken.

Agreed we acknowledge receipt of the above letter and acquaint them that as the money found in the fisherman's house does not appear to have been the property of the Company, it had better be returned to Mahomed Reza Khan on account of the Nabob, and that the Fakeers who were made prisoners at the retaking of Dacca may be employed as coolies in the repair of the factory.

691.—*Burdwan Revenues.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 8.]

Adjustment of the Land Revenues of Burdwan for the year 1169 (A. D. 1762.)

JUMMAH GODUSTAH.

The amount of the revenues of the year 1168 according to the adjustment made up by Mr. Graham...				37,63,702	5	3
Deduct the amount of what appeared in the balance of 1168 irrecoverable of Rs. 80,000 there being only deducted				55,503	10	8
						37,08,198 11 15
Hawl Jeadah—						
Hall Russut the amount of certain bundabust or reductions admitted in the former and last years now again charged on their respective farms ...				9,181	14	11
Gained in casting up the village Nolla				710	8	2
Gained by errors found in the account of Pergunnah Mundlegaut and Ballia				2,982	7	11

Rojob, Bally and Astarrah 2 villages, omitted in the account outcry in 1168	607 13 5		
Gained in examining the accounts of Narradow and Delogam which the former agreed to	225 0 0		
Sonde Mattont Bazyaft the article of Sonde Mattont in the Jellacont farm excused by the Karkoon in his own farm now brought to account...	431 0 0		
Aymay resumed and brought to account granted by Mannick Chund Dewan	1,021 10 6		
An old market in Rajnagore, a village formerly omitted now re-settled and brought to account ...	17 12 0		
Rajah's Nankar in the Pergunnah of Bamonboon	2,793 4 4		
		17,970 10 11	37,26,169 5 6
Chartee Ezarah—			
The amount of the advances in Rs. 30,15,191-9-0 being part of the above sum of Rs. 37,26,169-5-6 bid by the purchaser at the public sale as per account particular ...	.....	.....	5,29,034 1 11
Chakeran Bazyaft—			
The amount of the revenues of lands of the Meckely Piker dismissed last year 1168 as finally adjusted after Mr. Graham went away ...	.....	.....	80,324 11 2
Cootwall sahamy	.....	.....	16,000 0 0
Ayma Chout	.....	.....	7,348 3 19
Increase on the Mabul Sawyer Chilkey this year	.....	.....	1,631 3 16
Deduct Rajah's Nancar Jumma in the Pergunnah Bamonboon included in account outcry with outcry advance	.....	3,785 4 4	
Deduct bundabust or deduction allowed to two farmers on account of the quantity of uncultivated ground in their farms	.....	4,170 0 0	7,955 4 4
	Cutcherry Rs. ...		43,52,552 5 10

Extracted and compared with the books of the Burdwan Cutcherry.

JOHN JOHNSTONE,
Resident.

692.—*Burdwan Salamy.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 29.]

Adjustment of the Bazee Doffa Jummah for 1169.

BAZEE ZEMEEN SALAMY—			
The amount of Salamy ordered to be collected on the lands under the heads of Dewtur, Burmutter, &c., this year	2,47,747	6	4
CHAKERAN SALAMY—			
The amount of salamy on the chakeran lands this year intended to be resumed the next year 1170	31,780	8	15
DEEDARY SALAMY—			
A salamy of Rupees hitherto given by every village to the Deedars sent to arrest the Grain brought to account	7,973	6	0
AYMA SALAMY—			
A salamy given for this year by the Aymadan that their possession might not be disturbed nor rights disputed	12,001	0	0
MOITRAM BAZYAPT—			
The amount of Moitram resumed and brought to account	14,646	9	5
BAZEE JUMMAH—			
The amount of zemindary fines and forfeits, &c., this year	41,750	10	4
FOUZDARRY—			
The amount of Fouzdarry dues and forfeits this year	4,754	8	0
New settled markets this year	436	0	0
Siccaes of the year ...	3,61,090	0	8

Extracted from the Bengal books of the Burdwan Cutcherry.

693.—*The Dewan of Rajshahi's Oppression.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 7, JANUARY 22.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

Usker Aly Khan, who was Zilladar of Rajshahi, is a good man; but Kaisoo Roy, his Dewan, a man full of wickedness and oppression, has imprisoned the servants of many of the Company's dependants, who have resigned their Farms, and wants to take away their lives and effects, and is ruining the ryots of the Sircar. Notwithstanding the talookdars' and renters' resigning their lands, yet they cannot escape out of the hands of the Zilladars nor get back their money from them. Enclosed I send you several accounts of rents, &c., together with Jewun Kishun's Petition.*

* This was to the effect that he Jewun Kishun was a servant of the Company, and held a small farm, and although he had given it up, yet Hagi Abdulla (the Dewan) took by force from his Gomastah 400 Rs. more than the rent, and imprisoned his people.

694.—*Stopping a Salt Boat.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 16, FEBRUARY 10.]

To Kutub Alum, from the Governor.

I am just informed that some boats laden with Salt belonging to Messrs. Lushington and Amphlett, and provided with the Bukshbunder's pass and my dustuck were going to Patna, and that you have stopt them near Rajmahal.

695.—*Stopping Boats near Ghazipur.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 18, FEBRUARY 12.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I am informed by a letter from the Chief of Patna Factory that as some Saltpetre of the Company's was coming from Ghazeepore loaded on Bullocks, your Amil forcibly pulled it off from the Bullocks' backs at Mangy in the Perguinnah of Sircarsarun, took away the Bullocks and left the Saltpetre there, that the Daroga of Scisaun has stopt a boat laden with Saltpetre belonging to the Company and taken the Saltpetre out; that all the Assamies who take the Company's money for providing Saltpetre have been obliged to run away by the oppressions of your Officers, and that Cootub Aulum, the Foujdar of Rajmahul, has stopt four boats loaded with Betel nut, which had a dustuck from the Chief of Dacca Factory and makes a demand of duties.

696.—*Complaint of the oppression of Ali Beg.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 21, FEBRUARY 14.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I have already informed you of the oppressions and insolences of Mahomed Aly Beg, and I now enclose you a copy of a letter wrote by him to Abdoolla Aumil of Soondeep Pergunnah. Consider it is his design "not to suffer a single Englishman in the country, and to punish "whoever shall take upon himself the name of an Englishman"; accordingly the Company's business and that of private Gentlemen has been every where stopt.

697.—*Outrages of the Nawab's Agents on the English.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 31, MARCH 7.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I have already acquainted you that Mr. Senior, after having paid the duty for 4,000 maunds of Salt into the Shahbunder and taken out a pass, sent away the Salt, and that Syed Jelaul Bokory stopt it, and demanded an additional duty of 3,250 Rupees. I now learn from the letters of the Gomastahs in those parts, that he stopt the boats at every Ghaut, and taking an account of the goods demands just as much duty as he pleases—that he seizes the Manjies and Dandies and plunders them of all their effects, and if they are suffered to proceed on their way after all this trouble, they fall into the hands of the next Chokeydar, from whom they meet with the same injurious treatment—that his orders are so strict and positive that the gentlemen there can scarce get any thing to eat, that if any Englishman sends a peon with a letter to him for a dustuck or any kind of business, he imprisons the peon for a week or a fortnight and then sends him back half dead without an answer, and that, shewing the copy of my letter, which you sent him, to all the merchants and inhabitants, he says that nobody must have any dealings with the English, and reports that the English have little power in the Country at present, for which reason every one should take from them as much money as he pleases; accordingly many English gentlemen have severely suffered by his violences and extortions, and I will hereafter transmit you a particular account of their losses.

The Amil of Rungapoor also demands duties on Cloth and Silk and all kinds of goods as well foreign as such as are the produce of this Country, by which means the business of the English gentlemen and Gomastahs is entirely at a stand, and he imprisons the Dilolls and Pikars.

At Shengunge under the jurisdiction of Dinagepore, where six English Gomastahs are settled, Ramnant Bhadree the Naib there has set a Guard of ten Burkundazes over each of the Gomastahs, and has taken money from them under pretence that they must contribute their share to remove the Fakeers. I enclose you a list of the Gomastahs' names and an account of the money that has been extorted from them.

698.—*No dependent of the English to oppress the Ryots.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 32, MARCH 10.]

To the Sets, from the Governor.

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter whereon you write that "the inhabitants of the village of Balygoculpore, which is a "Talook you have purchased, are all run away on account of the "violences committed by the people belonging to the English boats "which bring to there, and that I should give strict orders concerning "this affair." As the strictest orders have been given that no dependant of the English should on any account injure or oppress the Ryots, and I am by no means inclined to allow of such proceedings, and as I have the same regard for your business as my own, I therefore desire if any one is guilty of any violences or oppressions, that you will inform me of his name, together with all particulars, that I may put a stop to such doings.

699.—*Sipahis sent by the English to the Nawab's People.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 35, MARCH 16.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I have been honored with your two favors of the 6th and 7th, wherein you write that "I have sent Sepoys into the Country with "orders to oppose force to force and resist any violences of your Officers, "and that an agreement is therefore useless." It is true the making an agreement will answer no end while the Sepoys remain; but your Excellency may easily remove all these disturbances and then no Sepoys will be sent into the country, for the sending them was entirely owing to an absolute necessity.* As the oppressions of your Officers were carried to such a length that they put a stop to all business, and plundered and seized the Dandies and Mangies, and you paid no regard to the many letters I wrote you requesting you would send orders to all your Officers to let our business go on as formerly, I was therefore obliged to send some Sepoys into different parts of the country. Now also if you will give such orders to your Officers that our business may go on as formerly, the Sepoys will be recalled.

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* The Sipahis are constantly complained against by the ryots as being very oppressive, plundering the villages.

700.—*Elephants required for Mr. Amyatt.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 36, MARCH 16.]

To Syed Muhammad Khan, from the Governor.

Mr. Amyatt, who is just going to set out from hence on a visit to the Nabob in order to settle affairs with him, is in want of some Elephants for his baggage; I therefore desire you will keep eight in readiness for him, and in case there are none at Moorshedabad, that you will acquaint the Nabob of it, that he may send some from Monghyr.

701.—*Name given by the Nawab to Council Members, "men of low Character."*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 40, MARCH 24.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I must in this letter take notice of two particular phrases that you make use of *Servants* and *men of low character*. I am very unwilling to suppose you could by such unbecoming expressions mean the Gentlemen of Council, but they with me insist upon an explanation, as we will by no means suffer ourselves to be treated with disrespect.

702.—*Protest against the Seizure of Jagat Set.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 45, APRIL 24.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I am just informed by a letter from Mr. Amyatt that "Mahomed "Tuckee Khan having marched with his army from Beerbhoom to "Herageel went on the 21st instant at night to the house of Juggut "Sett and Maharaja Siroop Chand, and carried them from their own "house to Herageel, where he keeps them under a guard."

This affair surprises me greatly; when your Excellency took the Government upon yourself, you and I and the Setts being assembled together, it was agreed that as they are men of high rank in the country, you shall make use of their assistance in managing your affairs and never consent that they should be injured; and when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Monghyr I then likewise spoke to you about them, and you set my heart at ease by assuring me that you would on no

account do them any injury. The taking men of their rank in such an injurious manner out of their home is extremely improper and is disgraceing them in the highest degree; it is moreover a violation of our agreement, and therefore reflects dishonour upon you and me, and will be a means of acquiring us an ill name from everybody. The above mentioned Gentlemen were never thus disgraced in the time of any former Nazims.

703.—*Vansittart's letter to the Nawab on the French.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 54, MAY 30.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I wrote Mr. Amyatt all the particulars of the news which arrived some time ago from Europe, he has doubtless informed you of it. Fresh news is just arrived that our enemies the French being worsted in all parts of the world have sued for peace, which accordingly is near being concluded. I have wrote the particulars of this also to Mr. Amyatt, and he will make it known to you.

I have been a little indisposed for these four or five days past, through the heat of the weather, but by the grace of God, and your prayers, I am now better and shall soon be perfectly recovered.

704.—*The Dâk Stopped.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 59, JULY 3.]

To Kutub Alum, from the Governor.

No letters have arrived from Patna for these four days past, whereas it is customary for letters to arrive from thence by the dawks every day; the reason of this I know not, but the Company's Hurkaras inform me that you have imprisoned the Dawks which were stationed at Dacca, on which account the people belonging to the other Chokeys are all frightened and run away, so that our intercourse by letters is interrupted. In case this is true, you certainly have not done it without the Nabob's order, I therefore desire you will send me a copy of the Nabob's letter directing you to stop our intercourse by letters and imprison the people of the Chokey.

705.—*Congratulation to the new Nawab.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 10, JULY 27.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

I am informed by a letter from Major Adams that on the 29th instant he attacked the enemy's entrenchments, that they being unable to stand their ground placed their happiness in flight, and that your Excellency was seated on the Musnud. This being the principal of my wishes I returned thanks to the Almighty, and fired off the Guns in celebration of this happy event. The province of Bengal is now reduced under your subjection and all the inhabitants of the Country are blessed with tranquility and delivered from the oppressions of the enemy. By the blessing of God the Country, through your justice and power, will ever flourish and enjoy an uninterrupted spring. I most sincerely congratulate you and all well wishers on this happy occasion.

706.—*The Mahrattas in Cuttack.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 38, SEPTEMBER 13.]

To Moonshee Gholam Mustapha, from the Governor at Balasore.

I have received your letter and understand the contents. With regard to the designs of the Mahrattas, I desire you will give them fair warning to abstain from all acts of hostility, and acquaint Shubut that in case his people make any disturbance and interrupt the collection of the revenues, or injure and oppress the Ryots, the friendship now subsisting between us will be entirely broken off, and I shall send against him the Army that is just arrived from Madras, and the men-of-war and take the Town of Cuttack from him.

707.—*The Governor's Censure of Kasim Ali.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 15, SEPTEMBER 17.]

To Kasim Ali Khan, from the Governor.

I have received from Major Adams the copy of your letter to him dated the last of Suffar. Mr. Amyatt were sent to you as Ambassador, a title sacred among all nations, yet in violation of that title you caused Mr. Amyatt to be attacked and killed on his return, after having given him your passports, and Mr. Hay you unjustly keep as a prisoner with you.

You surrounded and attacked our Factory at Cossimbazar and carried away our gentlemen from thence prisoners in a most disgraceful manner to Monghyr, although they had no concern in the war nor resisted your people. In like manner in all other parts you attacked the English Agents who were carrying on their trade quietly, some were killed and some were carried away prisoners, and their effects were everywhere plundered. After these proceedings do you ask for what reason Major Adams was sent with an army. You know the laws of God and man, as you had declared you would turn the English out of the Country and had proceeded as far as you could towards it, it became necessary for us to take measures for our own defence and for the care of our own reputation. Thanks be to God that success has attended our army thus far, and they will continue their march in the same manner as far as the Caramnassa, that the country may be freed from disturbances and the inhabitants relieved from the horrors of war, and although we are shocked as must all people of all religions and all nations, at the revenge which you threaten to take upon the lives of our Chiefs who have been unfortunately taken prisoners by you, yet the honor of our nation and the interests of the Company will not be sacrificed to this consideration nor the operations of our army stop. To put prisoners of war to death is an act which will appear shocking and unlawful not only to Christians and Mussulmen, but to the most barbarous Pagans. Such sentiments are nowhere to be met with but among the beasts of the forest. After the battle of Oodua Nulla above a thousand of your Officers and men were prisoners in the hands of Major Adams, who released them without the least hurt or injury. Reflect on this and on your own character both in this world and in the next, and remember also that if you had followed my advice this war would not have happened.

708.—*Oppression at Hugly, Nunkumar's oppressions.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, OCTOBER 29.]

To the Nawab, from the Governor.

The Chief of Serampoor on the part of the Danes has wrote me that "He sent his Vakeel to the Hooghley Foujdar and examined the papers, "from which it appeared that he had paid 10,000 Rs. more than was "customary, notwithstanding this the Hooghley Foujdar (Seyed Buddul "Khan) stopt some of his Bales of cloth. He released them indeed upon "the receipt of a letter from me on the subject, but the next day he

"stopped some more of his bales and would not suffer them to pass." He likewise stopped and demanded duties on some Cotton which a merchant was carrying for sale to Chandernagore with a Company's dustuck which is never subject to duties. As I am informed by a letter from Coja Menis, an Armenian merchant of Chinsurah, that two years ago he purchased some Cloth there, and having immediately paid the duties for it into the cutcherry at Hooghley, he sent it away in a ship of mine to Manilla, and that now Lahoorimul the Hooghley Dewan has placed a Guard of peons over him in demand of duties on the said Cloth and extorted a sum of money from him.

As Syed Budnal Cawan is a good man, and all these disturbances have happened since the arrival of Lahoorimul, it appears that he who is of Nuncomar's orders in appointment is acting agreeably to Nuncomar's orders in oppressing several merchants who have fallen under his displeasure. As numbers of the merchants of this Country are great sufferers by these disturbances, and the rest depend upon your favour and protection, and it is necessary you should support them, you must therefore secure them from the displeasure of such kind of men. You have now shewn some little favor to Nuncomar and he has already begun such oppressions on the people, if your favour to him increases, his oppressions will also increase, and the people will be trampled under foot. When your Excellency set out from hence you told me, and indeed it is specified in the agreement, that you should appoint somebody to reside here on your part and treat with me on matters of business. I request you will send some person of understanding and consequence, that I may assist in forwarding the business of the sircar, according to his representations. Juggut Chund, through whose hands I am honored with your letters at present, is not fit for this business, he is a mere idler, and in the same manner that he comes to me, he runs about to every house in Town.

709.—*Backergunge, Luckypore.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 89, DECEMBER 10.]

To Syud Mahomed Reza Khan, Naib of Dacca, from the Governor.

SIR,—There is no person at Backergunge fit for me to write to, there being no one there except two or three low men for building boats and making Chunam. You should appoint some person of understanding and experience to be your Officer there, and strictly enjoin him in case those

men are guilty of any oppressions, to inform me of the particulars together with the names of the offenders, and I will punish them without delay.

The violence of the current having carried away the banks at Luckypore so that the river washes the foot of the wall of the factory, we have put an entire stop to the Company's business and removed it, half to Dacca and half to Chittagong.

710.—*Nunkumar's influence.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 34.]

From Raja Doolabram, received 10th January 1764.

Hitherto Nuncomar manages all the affairs of the Calissa, &c., but nothing is yet properly settled, and though the year is nearly concluded, not a fourth part of the amount of the last year's collections is yet come in. On the 26th of the month of Uggun the Nabob gave me betel and invested me with the office of the Nizamut, ordering a tent to be pitched for my cutcherry. I have appointed five or six writers and begun upon that business. I send you a list of the offices which were formerly annexed to the Nizamut, and which are now separated from it and held by Nuncomar. This will give you an insight into the state of affairs here. The business of the Nizamut is begun in part to be settled, but all the affairs of Bengal depend on the Calissa, and till that is regulated there can be no order in affairs, and all business is now at a stand for want of money, nor whilst Nuncomar continues will they be in a better state.

Offices belonging to the Nizamut and now separated from it and held by Nuncomar.

Huzzoor novesy (office for taking copies of sunnuds &c.,) Darogahship of the private Treasury and Jagheers Mustofy-gurry (office for examining the acccounts of dismissed Officers.)

Accounts of the province of Patna.
Accounts of Poornea.
Accounts of the Chuckla of Bauglepore.
Mushrefee of the Dewan Conna.
Moonshee Conna.
Accounts of the Jagheers.

711.—*The Raja of Burdwan on the Country.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 44.]

From Raja Tillookchund to the Council, received 19th January 1764.

I am acquainted with the contents of the English petition sent to you, gentlemen, by Gocul my late Mujmooadar and which you transmitted to Mr. Johnstone. In consequence of your orders I have released the said Gocul from his confinement and sent him to his own house under a Guard of Mr. Johnstone's and my Peons for the balance due from him. You enquire for what reason he has been confined and treated with severity. Gentlemen, the affair is this; Gocul throwing off all obedience to me, and on every occasion consulting only his own inclinations, took possession of considerable sums out of the revenues, on which account I dismissed him from his post. As it is the duty of every servant to pay obedience to his master's orders, and perform his business with fidelity and uprightness, and Gocul was disobedient and faithless, I therefore imprisoned him in order to get back the money he had taken possession of. In Bengal it is customary for a dismissed servant to settle his accounts with his Master. Accordingly Dewan Manickchund, Ram Baboo, Laula Ummeerchund, Hurry Kishun Roy, and Haroo Bose Majmooadar were my servants; after their dismission they were imprisoned till they had accounted for the money in their hands. As it appeared by the papers which I have now in my possession signed by the Eitamaumdars and Shiedars, and Muttasuddies of the different districts, that Gocul was responsible for the sum of Rs. 1,84,000 and he being unable to clear himself, agreed to pay a lakh of Rupees by stated payments, and as he has only paid near half that sum and delays making good the remainder I therefore put irons on his feet and treated him with severity. He has represented a falsehood to you, gentlemen, in asserting that I have seized all his goods and household effects. Every one knows that he removed his goods and effects from his house two or three years ago, and before his dismission he sent away all that remained, together with his family to the borders of Beerbhoom in the jurisdiction of Cassim Ally Khan, of all which nothing has come to my hands. You, gentlemen, demand from me the Company's revenues not only for the present time but the balance likewise. If you do not allow me power over my own servants, and after examination to take from them what money they have sequestered for their own use, how shall I be able to pay the Company's revenues. In case faithless and evil servants are not called to an account, the business of the zemindary which you have graciously committed to my charge will be injured; other servants will have nothing to deter them from misbehaviour, and no one will place any confidence in me. I hope you will be kind enough not to attribute the imprisonment of Gocul to any other cause. At present in order to make Ramdoonague give an account how he has discharged his Office of Eitamaumdar of the land farmed by the Doury,* and other posts which he has long enjoyed, and from which he has sequestered Lacs of Rupees, I have placed a guard of peons over him, and such of his relations as have been concerned under him, and

* Mother, wives, daughters and others.

I have dismissed him and his relations from the aforesaid farm and taken it into my own hands, whereas at the time of the outcry you kindly allowed me the profits of that farm for my necessary expenses and the use of my family, I have had a small part of those profits, and the rest Ramdoonague &c., have taken posssession of for themselves, but now I shall make them refund. Ramdoonague and Gocul during the time they were in employ, sequestered a vast sum of money out of the revenues of my zemindary and enriched themselves at my expense, so that I am become indebted Lacs of Rupees to the Merchants. These matters are well known to you, gentlemen, and to every person in this province, nor are you ignorant how diligently I have for these two years past paid the Company's stipulated revenues, and how much trouble I have met with about the payment of the arrears due to my discharged Troops, and about providing for my necessary expenses.

712.—*The Set's Release desired.**

[PERSIAN LETTER DEPARTMENT.]

From the Vizier to the Nabob January 8th.

I have had the pleasure to receive your two letters mentioning the arrival of the royal presents, and your desire that the Set's sons may be released, and I have represented in a proper manner to His Majesty the strength and firmness of your obedience. The high in station Raja Beny Bahadre will shortly arrive in the royal presence, and these matters will be settled and answers sent you.

713.—*The Cutwa Thanader's Exactions.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 46.]

From Mahomed Yar Beg Khan, Amil of Nuddea, received 23rd January 1764.

I have been honored with your friendly letter wherein you write "that one Hosun Aly, whom I have appointed Thanadar of Cutwa, has "several times stopped and obstructed the Company's Boats in passing "and repassing, and demands uncustomary duties and gratuities, that "I should send him a letter of reproof that he may desist from such "proceedings in future, and that you have wrote to the Nabob on the "subject."

* This had no effect; the Sets, the Rothschilds of Bengal, were flung like dogs from a bastion of the Fort of Monghyr into the Ganges, and met the ignominious death of drowning.

714.—*Demands on the Nawab.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 230.]

Nawab's answer to the representation of the Board.

With regard to the 40 Lacs of Rupees which you demand as restitution for the losses of the English Merchants and other dependents of the Company, you, Gentlemen, know that in Colonel Clive's time, when the English merchants and other inhabitants of Calcutta delivered in their accounts of the losses they had sustained by the troubles with Seraj-ut dowla, the Colonel deducted half the amount of the claims and caused the other half to be paid. Now also you should in like manner take a just account from each person, deduct half the amount, and settle the payment of the remaining half on such terms that I may not be pressed, but may discharge it leisurely and by degrees.

715.—*Complaints of the Nawab.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 234.]

Translation of a paper of requests presented by the Nabob to the Board, received 14th September 1864.

Article First.—The officers of Colonel-gunge and Maroogunge, which are newly established at Patna, take away by force the Merchants belonging to the Gunges of the Sircar, by which means my Gunges are desolated and I suffer a loss of a Lac of Rupees. It is proper that the aforesaid new Gunges should be forbidden, that the Gunges of the Sircar may flourish and I may not suffer any loss.

Article Second.—The state of the Buddraca* of Patna and the Putchootra of Moorshedabad is this, that Merchants refuse to pay the customary duties under cover of the protection of the English Factories. Be pleased to send positive orders that they should pay the customary duties into the aforesaid Cutcherries and that no protection should be granted to any one.

Article Third.—Whereas in Sircar Tirhut, and Sircar Hajypoor and Sircar Sarun &c. and also in the Bengal province, the English Gomastahs hold farms in the name of the Factories and give protection to the dependents of the Sircar; by these means my Government is weakened and the affairs of the Country are interrupted and prejudiced. It is proper you should give such effectual orders on this subject that the renting of villages may be put an entire stop to and no one may protect the dependents of the sircar.

Article Fourth.—Money belonging to the Company's Factory is coined in the Mint at Patna at the rate of 2¼ per cent. only. Last year it was appointed

* Cutcherries into which the Government duties are paid,

that 10,000 Rupees a month should be sent from the factory to the Mint to be coined, and that the usual duty should be paid. At present very large sums are brought into the Mint from the factory by the servants and dependents of the factory, and a duty is paid according to the factory rate, whereby a heavy loss falls upon the sircar. It is proper strict orders should be given that whatever was formerly appointed should be now observed.

Article Fifth.—The villages of Dumdumma and Seebpoor in the Pergunnah of Coolbarrea and the village of Bummun-gutta in the Pergunna of Shumseany with other villages in the Chuckla of Moorsheedabad, the Gomastahs of Cossimbazar Factory have forcibly taken possession of, and do not pay a cowrie Malgoozary. And the Tuppa of Jamgaoun &c., in the Pergunna of Beerboom, which is not in the Zemindary of Raja Tillockchund, the officers of the Chuckla of Burdwan have taken possession of, and collect together with the revenues of Burdwan a matter of 10,000 Rupees which are included in the accounts of the revenues of Beerboom. Be pleased to give such orders on this subject that the officers of Cossimbazar Factory may resign the villages of Dumdumma &c., and that the Tuppa of Jamgaoun may be restored to Beerboom.

Article Sixth.—The English Gomastahs in the districts of Dacca and Rangamutty, and Chilmorry, and Backergunge &c., force Tobacco and other goods upon the Talookdars and Ryots, whereby the country is desolated and a very heavy loss falls upon the Sircar. It is proper that a stop should be everywhere put to this oppression that the country may flourish, the inhabitants may pay their rents in security, and my revenues may not be injured.

Article Seventh.—There are people on the part of the English in the Forts of Patna and Monghyr &c., whereby my authority is impaired. It is proper that the English should move out of the Forts and my people be established therein as usual; and the new Gunge, which the Commandant at Monghyr has established there, should be removed, that the old ones may flourish, and I may not suffer any loss.

Article Eighth.—The people of several Englishmen everywhere buy and sell rice and other grain in the Gunges and Golas of Bengal, whereby the Foujdars and other officers are prevented from sending grain to the army. I request that a stop may be put to the Englishmen's buying and selling grain in the Gunges and Golas, that supplies may arrive in time with the army.

Article Ninth.—In Patna from Chelsitoon &c., near 40 houses designed for the reception of strangers are in the possession of several English Gentlemen, so that I could not have them in case I should want them for myself and my family and dependents. Be pleased therefore to give orders that the said houses should be quitted.

Article Tenth.—The wood Farm belonging to Poornea, which has hitherto paid a tribute of 50,000 Rupees a year, is now in the hands of the English, and I received not a cowrie from it, whereby I suffer a heavy loss, and my authority is weakened. Let orders be given that the English should desist from interfering in that Farm.

Article Eleventh.—If any of the servants or dependents of the sircar should seek for protection from the English, let it be enacted that no person shall give protection to the dependents of the sircar or recommend the servants.

Article Twelfth.—The Sepoys, who are sent from the factories into different parts of the country in consequence of complaints, desolate the villages and put the ryots to flight by their disorders and oppressions, whereby my revenues are injured. Let strict orders be given that no sepoys should be sent into the country without previous notice to me or my officers.

Article Thirteenth.—The poor of this country, who used always to deal in salt betelnut and tobacco &c., are now deprived of their daily bread by the trade of the Europeans, whereby no kind of advantage accrues to the Company and the Government revenues are greatly injured.

716.—*Zein-ul Abudeen.*

[PERSIAN LETTER DEPARTMENT.]

From Zein-ul Aubudeen, to Major Munro, received in Calcutta 22nd September 1764.

I have had the honor to receive by the means of Ussud Khan Bahadre your friendly letter expressing your desire that I should join you with as many able bodied and well mounted horsemen, Moguls, Toorannies &c., as I can.

Sir, although it is very dishonorable to all men, particularly to persons of family, to desert the service they are engaged in, and go over to their Master's enemies, yet there are several circumstances which justify such a conduct in us. For instance, Shuja-ul-dowla, notwithstanding his oath upon the Koran, murdered the Nabob Mahomed Cooly Khan, who was the glory of the Moguls, and to me in particular was dearer than a father or a brother. Accordingly his friendship and kindness to me, and my regard for and attachment to him must doubtless have been fully made known to you by Ussud Khan Bahadre.

Secondly, his behaviour to the Nabob Cossim Aly Khan, who was a Syed and a descendant of the Prophets, has been very shameful. It is not allowed by any religion that a person who flees to another for protection with his children, family, and effects, even if he is a person of low rank, should meet with other treatment than friendship and support. Why then has he in violation of his oath and agreement behaved in such a manner as to incur universal censure and reflect disgrace upon the Mogul name?

Thirdly, he has never failed to break every engagement he has entered into and every oath he has taken.

Fourthly, neither himself nor his Ministers pay any regard to his own sign-manual.

Fifthly, with respect to us Moguls, who are strangers in this country, and who having nothing to depend upon, but our monthly pay, are, together with our families, brought to distress whenever that is stopt, he thinks of nothing but how to oppress and ruin us, and therefore takes no notice of men of family, but places all his confidence in low and worthless people.

Sixthly, he by no means makes a proper distinction between his friends and his enemies, but makes a practice of countenancing the latter and ill treating the former.

The assisting and supporting of such an oppressor is neither conformable to reason, nor to the Koran, nor to the rules of any religion, and the quitting his service can reflect no dishonour upon any one, either in the sight of God or man. Therefore if the English, who are celebrated for their justice and good faith, are desirous of our alliance, and are willing to agree to our just demands, and to swear to the observance of the agreement by the name of Jesus and Mary, and the Gentlemen of the Council of the English Company will put their seals to the agreement and speedily forward it hither, doubtless a great number of Moguls and Tooranies &c., will without delay join you in due time. Other particulars you will be informed of by Mirza Unvuz Beg.

717.—*The Killadar of Rotas.**

[PERSIAN LETTER DEPARTMENT, 248.]

From Shaw Mull, Kelladar of Rotas, to Major Munro.

For the protection of my zunnana it is requisite that the troops should be despatched as soon as possible and make long marches. This is your own business. I am sincerely devoted to your service. Was any misfortune to befall us, the disgrace would be yours. Other matters will be fully made known to you by my letter to Doctor Fullarton.

718.—*Terms for the English.*

[PERSIAN LETTER DEPARTMENT, 246.]

Paper of Articles sent to Major Munro by the Nawab, received in Calcutta, 22nd September 1764.

Articles which should be agreed to by the English Company, which the Gentlemen of Council should put their seals to, and swear to the observance of upon the Bible, and in the name of the Prophet Jesus and the Prophet Mary, and which I request may be speedily despatched to me that my mind may be at ease.

1*st.*—You should in every respect regard the honor and reputation of us, who are strangers in this country, as your own, and make us your confederates in every business.

* Rotas was a great hill fortress in the days of Sher Shah, who became Emperor of Delhi, after his death it gradually fell into decay, this is amongst the latest accounts of its being occupied.

2*ndly.*—When you have received us into a close confederacy with you, you should grant us a proper place in the country for the habitation of our families and dependents.

3*rdly.*—Whereas sixty rupees a month have been appointed for all but jemadars, and havildars and duffadars, there are single men, who are not jemadars or duffadars, who have always been distinguished, and have received one hundred, two hundred and three hundred rupees a month. To these men you should allow something more than they receive here.

4*thly.*—Whatever Moguls, whether Oranies or Tooranies, come to offer their service, should be received on the aforesaid terms; moreover a present of a hundred rupees a man should be immediately given them, and a month's pay should be advanced them.

5*thly.*—At present let not any difficulties be made about large or small horses.

6*thly.*—Whatever Mogul is killed in battle or dies, let his son or relation be received in his place.

7*thly.*—As several men are in debt to different merchants, let a small sum of money be sent that may serve to discharge the said debts.

8*thly.*—If any one should be desirous of returning to his own Country, let his arrears be immediately paid, and let him be discharged in peace.

719.—*The Chout, or Mahratta Black Mail.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 250.]

From Bowany Pundit (Dewan at Cuttock), received 5th October 1764.

I have just had the honor to receive a letter from the Maharaja mentioning "that in the time of former Nabobs the negociations con-"cerning the chout were never brought to an issue without the "approach of an army."

720.—*Dacca, the Nawab of—.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 255.]

From Syud Mahomed Reza Khan (Naib of Dacca), received 17th October 1764.

In consequence of the Nabob's orders I repaired with the utmost speed from Dacca to Moorshedabad with my officers and accounts. As His Excellency did not give me any instructions about leaving a Naib of rank at Dacca, I therefore only left a person with a few assistants to take care of the Killa. Now by reason of the absence of the officers and the want of a Naib of rank, the collections and business of those

parts are in the greatest confusion, and are daily growing worse and worse. I labour under the greatest uneasiness; the season for collecting the revenues is passing away, I see no prospect of my being able to make up in future for the losses which are now happening, nor will it be an easy matter for me to give a satisfactory answer.

721.—*Delhi News.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 267.]

News from Delhi brought by a Cossid who arrived at Patna in sixteen days.

Nud-jieb-ul dowla and his son are with their troops at Delhi, and Jowahir Sing, with 40,000 horse and 50,000 foot, is encamped within two or three coss of the city, and has just been joined by Mulhar row with 30,000 Mahrattas. He has sent word to Nud-jeib-ul dowla that it is unworthy a man of courage to shut himself up within the walls of the city; that he should march out to the distance of four or five coss and there come to an engagement, that the city might not be plundered.

722.—*The Nawab will reach Calcutta in two days, to see Lord Clive.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 272.]

From the Nabob to the Governor and Council, received 12th November 1764.

As soon as I receive intelligence of Lord Clive's arrival at Ingelee, I, who long to have the pleasure of seeing him, will set out from Moorshedabad and make it but two days journey to Calcutta, and then by your favour the aforesaid articles shall be settled. I have fixed my departure on the 22nd of Jewady-ul-awul (the 17th of November), there being no luckier day in the month.

723.—*An Englishman murdered in the Sunderbuns.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 285.]

From the Nabob, received 18th November 1764.

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter wherein you write "that "Mr. Rose, an English Gentleman, was going in a boat with some

"money and goods; that the boat people murdered him near Backer-"gunge, seized the money and goods, and took shelter in the zemindari "of Seetaram; that you have enclosed me an account of the money and "goods that were plundered; and that I should write to the Naib of "Dacca to make the zemindar refund, and to take such vigorous mea-"sures that those parts may be entirely cleared of robbers and murderers." Sir, agreeably to your desire I have written an order to Syed Mahomed Reza Khan, and I herewith send it open for your perusal. You will be pleased to forward it.

724.—*News of the Mahrattas and Cuttack.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 287.]

From Bowany Pundit, received 2nd December 1764.

Some time ago I informed you of my having marched with an intention of punishing the zemindars of Neogurra and Runpoor &c., of their having made their submission, and of my design to cross the river Mahanuddy as soon as those parts were settled to my satisfaction. At the time of Shubut's dismission the zemindar of the Fort of Deengonaul which is near Cuttack, murdered an adopted son of his name Booly Khan, and seized his horses and effects. For the punishment of this villainy therefore, I have thought proper to encamp my victorious army in the neighbourhood of Deengonaul. By the blessing of God this short-sighted man will speedily be brought to disgrace. You must doubtless have heard of the folly and presumption of the zemindars of Moorbunge and Neilgree, how at the aforesaid time they plundered the inhabitants of some of the districts of Balasore, and entered into a confederacy with Bansker Pundit, the late Foujdar of that place, who was greatly in arrears on account of the revenues of those districts, and carried him away with his effects. Accordingly the said Pundit is still at Neilgree, and for these two years past he has neglected paying the Government revenues, wherefore I think it necessary to call these people to an account.

725.—*The Zemindar of Sasseram.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 295.]

From the Nabob, received 20th December 1764.

I send for your perusal endorsed the copy of a letter which Shahmull wrote from the Army under command of Major Munro to

Juggonaut Sing and Sonaut Sing, sons in law of Pulwan Sing, zemindar or Aumil of the Pergunnah of Sasseram and Chien; from that you will be convinced of the villainy of Shahmull who, besides his own Pergunnahs of Sasseram and Chienpoor, has seized on those of Serrus and Cuttumba having dispossessed by force and under protection the Aumil Arab Ally Khan, and been the occasion of disturbance and hurt to the Malguzaree. If in this manner by the means of protection and connivance the Sircar is to be deprived of the collection of these valuable Pergunnas, how can I ever be able to discharge the great sum I am indebted, amounting to upwards of a crore, and from whence will my brother the Nabob Yeitaram ul Dowla Bahadre furnish the monthly allowance of two lacs for the use of the English Army. That allowance they must receive from Shahmul.

726.—*Nunkumar, Letter from—*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 301.]

From Nunkumar, received 26th December 1764.

Upon my arrival at Moorshedabad, with his Excellency, the 20th of this month I applied myself to the regulation of affairs there. I despatched to-day the 25th of Jemady ul sany on boats from the city, the sum of two lacs balance remaining of the twenty lacs on account of the damages sustained by the Merchants, please God they will arrive in five or six days, a list of the several sorts of rupees is sent to Nob kishen Moonshee, he will deliver the same to you. I am entirely devoted to the service of the Sircar and the Company. For this year and half past I have not found an opportunity for a week or ten days to inspect the affairs of the country, wherefore if in any business relative to the Sircar or the Company I should be two or three days behind hand it is not to be helped. Now that by your favour I am employed in the management of affairs, you will be convinced of my attachment to the Sircar and friendship for the Company and desire to please you. I hope that considering me as your sincere friend you will rejoice me with your letters.

727.—*The Mahratte General at Midnapore.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 302.]

From Bowany Pundit, received 27th December 1764.

As the Maharajah has always been desirous of preserving friendship, and of doing what is most beneficial for the poor inhabitants of the country, so I too, notwithstanding that I have brought my army only to punish the zemindars of these parts, have repeatedly written to inform you, lest upon the approach of my troops any of the inhabitants of Jellasore or Midnapore, which border on each other, should make false reports and occasion a misunderstanding between us. At present I write that you may tell the Officers of those Chucklahs to be under no apprehensions, for I have laid my commands on the Officers of any Troops to suffer no one to enter these Chucklahs.

728.—*To have no dealings with Foreigners.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, 1763, PARA. 19.]

We must strictly enjoin you to attend to the repeated orders we have given not to countenance or have any dealings with foreigners, as you must be sensible many inconveniences may arise to us if such should find countenance from any of our servants.*

729.—*Medicines why not sent.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, 1763, PARA. 25.]

The indent for stationery will be fully complied with.

The disappointment you experienced of a supply of medicines and several other particulars by the early ships of 1760 is to be attributed to the very large tonnage then required for His Majesty's stores, and the number of recruits at that time embarked for the King's Battalions on those ships.

730.—*Artificers sent to Calcutta.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 9, 1763, PARA. 124.]

It appearing by Mr. Amphlett's letter that European artificers are much wanted, we send you three carpenters, who have been well recom-

* This referred particularly to a trade the Prussians were trying to open with Bengal.

mended to us, with Mr. Fortnom by the Ship *Lord Clive, viz.*, Abraham Hathaway, Thomas Lyon, and John Faux. We have entertained them to serve the Company five years at the rate of ninety pounds a year, to commence on their arrival, which is to be in full for wages, diet money, and all other allowances whatsoever.

731.—*Six Russian Officers to go to India.*

[COURT'S LETTER, APRIL 6, 1763, PARAS. 3 & 4.]

The Right Hon'ble the Earl of Hallifax, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having, upon an application made to His Majesty on the part of the Empress of Russia, signified some months since His Majesty's pleasure to the Lords of the Admiralty that a certain number of Sea Officers should be received on board some of His Majesty's ships of war in different stations in order to their perfecting themselves in the science and business of navigation, and that the intention was that six of those Officers should have embarked on board any Men-of-War that might have sailed to the East Indies if the war had continued; but as the peace is since happily concluded, and those gentlemen are actually arrived in expectation of being so disposed of, the Earl of Hallifax by the royal command has signified to us that it will be very agreeable to His Majesty to permit the said six Russian Officers to make the voyage to India and back on board the Company's ships. We have accordingly given orders to the Commanders of the Ships *British King*, bound to the Coast and Bay, and the *Talbot* and *Speaker* for Bombay, each of them to receive hire of the said Officers on board, to afford them all proper accommodations and use them civilly, they having satisfied the said Commanders for the same.

Upon the arrival of the said ships we would have you enquire whether the said Russian Officers have met with proper usage; and if they have any complaints to make, see that they are redressed, and you are further to show them all proper civilities when they have occasion at any time to be on shore.

732.—*Ships chartered to buy Slaves at Madagascar.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 9.]

We informed you in our said letter we had fixed upon the *Fort William* Captain Edward Roach, and the *Success*, Captain , to purchase slaves at Madagascar for the service of Fort Marlborough Presidency As it may be some

way necessary for your being acquainted with the principal parts of our agreements with the owners of the said ships, this is therefore to make known to you.

That each ship is to be esteemed as a ship of 350 tons burthen, to carry 26 guns, and be navigated by 70 Europeans, the Captain and Officers included, who are to be victualled and paid by the owners.

That they are to proceed from England to Madagascar, where the owners undertake to purchase slaves at their own expense to be delivered at Fort Marlborough the Company allowing them, for each slave that shall be on board at the ship's departure from Madagascar, fifteen pounds a head, two-thirds of the number to be males from 15 to 40 years of age, and one-third females from 15 to 25 years of age, boys and girls from 10 to 15 are to be reckoned two for one.

That as inducement to the Commanders and Chief Mates to exert themselves in procuring as large a number of slaves as their ships can conveniently carry, and to encourage the Surgeons to take the proper care of them in the passage, there is to be allowed 20 shillings for every slave shipped at Madagascar, to be divided, *viz.*, 13*s.* 4*d.* a head to the Commander, and 6*s.* 8*d.* to the Chief Mate, also for every one delivered at Fort Marlborough the Commander is to be allowed the further sum of 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the Chief Mate 3*s.* 4*d.* The Surgeon is likewise to be allowed 10*s.* for each slave landed at Fort Marlborough.

733.—*Nundcomar not to be trusted.**

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 37.]

From the whole of your proceedings with respect to Nundcomar, there seems to be no doubt of his endeavouring by forgery and false accusations to ruin Ramchurn; that he has been guilty of carrying

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* There is ample evidence with regard to this in the Proceedings, Secret and Separate, 27th April 1761 to 27th September 1762. Mr. Wheeler, in his excellent Memorandum of the Records in the Foreign Department, gives the following analysis of the Proceedings, Secret and Separate, 27th April 1761 to 27th September 1762: "The volume of Proceedings on the early forgeries of Nundcomar is a curious record connected with the administration of Mr. Vansittart, and is important on two grounds: first, as illustrative of the secret intriguing, real or imagined, which was carried on between the Hindoo chiefs in the service of the Nawab and the military commanders in the army of Shah Aulum; and secondly, as indicating the origin of the long-nourished hatred of Nund Coomar against Warren Hastings, which did not find full expression until many years afterwards. It has already been pointed out that the policy by which the Nawab Aliverdy Khan had been enabled to retain his Nawabship free from rebellion was that of reserving all important posts for Hindoos alone, to the exclusion of the Mussulmans. His successor, Surajadowla, did not exactly reverse this policy, but he offended and insulted both parties, and was, consequently, ousted by a union of both parties. Meer Jaffier, however, and his successor, Meer Cossim, both attempted to recruit their respective treasuries at the expense of the wealthiest individuals amongst the Hindoos. It was under such circumstances, and whilst the English and Meer Cassim were still at war with the

on correspondences with the Country Powers hurtful to the Company's interests, and instrumental in conveying letters between the Shahzada and the French Governor General of Pondicherry; in short, it appears he is of that wicked and turbulent disposition that no harmony can subsist in a society where he has the opportunity of interfering, we therefore most readily concur with you that Nundcomar is a person improper to be trusted with his liberty in our settlements, and capable of doing mischief if he is permitted to go out of the province either to the northward or towards the Deccan, we shall therefore depend upon your keeping such a watch over all his actions as may be the means of preventing his disturbing the quiet of the public or injuring individuals for the future.

734.—*Against fortifying Chittagong.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 42.]

We observe you have some thoughts of fortifying Chittagong, which you represent as being weak and indefensible at present, and for that purpose had wrote to the gentlemen at that factory for a plan which you say you apprize us of that we may acquaint you how far we shall approve of your fortifying that settlement. From the manner of your

"King," Shah Aulum, that some extraordinary letters were discovered on the person of a hurkara, which seemed to imply that Rajah Doolub Ram and another of the Sutts, named Ram Churn, were carrying on a treasonous correspondence with one of the military commanders in the Camp of Shah Aulum. The present volume contains the proceedings of Government in this matter, from which it may be gathered that for a long time Mr. Vansittart and his Council were divided upon the subject until about a year afterwards, when Mr. Warren Hastings was appointed Member of Council. Strangely enough, as it now appears, one of Mr. Hastings' first acts after his arrival in Calcutta was to investigate this case; and his enquiries led to the discovery that the Native correspondence was a forgery in which the notorious Nund Coomar was deeply implicated. The object of Nund Coomar in forging these letters was apparently to ruin those influential personages in the eyes of the English, probably to get rid of parties who appeared to him to be standing in the way of his advancement, and possibly to afford an excuse to Meer Cassim for plundering their private property. How this unprincipled intriguer sought to revenge himself many years afterwards by bringing charges of corruption against Warren Hastings, and how in the end he was himself convicted and executed for a repetition of the same crime of forgery, are matters of general history. It is evident from these and other notices of Nund Coomar that he was a thorough villain. In the Secret Proceedings for 1767 (see paragraph 14) a charge is recorded against him of endeavouring to ruin a rival, named Nobkissen, by inducing a married Brahmin Woman to bring a false accusation against Nobkissen of having violated her."

expressing yourselves, we are under some doubt you intended to make a beginning before our orders could be received, but we hope you have not taken such a liberty, for we are entirely averse to your undertaking any new works at any of our subordinate settlements, except such as may be absolutely and really necessary for housing goods and other mercantile uses only, especially when we are not fully informed of all circumstances and the proper plans and estimates of the expense.

735.—*Claims rejected as coming from a foreigner.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 82.]

We cannot conclude the subject of restitution to European sufferers, without expressing our surprise that the claim of Mr. Van Staaden, which appears so equitable and well supported, should have been rejected by the Commissioners on account of his being a foreigner.

736.—*The Danish outrage on a Company's servant.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 117.]

According to the account you give us of the affair between the gentlemen of the Danish Company and you, the second and Zemindar of the Danish Factory taking upon them to inflict an ignominious punishment upon a Jemadar, Havildar and Sepoy of the Company's on account of a trifling quarrel between them and the guard of peons at the barrier of their Town, they seem to have been guilty of an insult which required a suitable satisfaction, but whether you should have proceeded so far as to invest their Factory we cannot form a judgment until we are more fully informed from the papers which passed on the occasion. As we find that the Danish Zemindar did at last make the acknowledgment required, and you in consequence drew your troops off, we hope to hear nothing more of the affair. Your conjecture that Mr. Demarchez, who is a native of France and is Chief of the Danish Factory, might have views to our prejudice in this transaction seems very probable, it will be necessary therefore to have a careful eye upon the conduct of the Danes thus influenced by him, at the same time we would have you avoid with the utmost care the proceeding to extremities.

737.—*French Papers and Records to be delivered up.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 23, PARA. 4.]

You are likewise, in pursuance of the 22nd Article of the said Treaty (of peace with France), to deliver up to the said Commissary of His Most Christian Majesty or to any other person properly authorized to receive the same, all the papers, letters, documents and archives in your custody or power which were found in any of the places to be restored by virtue of the said Treaty. Besides these it has been signified to His Majesty on the part of the Court of France that some papers belonging to the French Company, and particularly their Firmans from the Nobob were seized by the English at Moorshedábad at the house of a Portuguese, where the Sieur Law had deposited them. These Firmans and papers (if any such incident really happened, for at present we know nothing of it), it is His Majesty's pleasure and our direction that they likewise be restored wherever you shall find them.

738.—*Surgeons going out to be employed.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MAY 9, PARA. 15.]

We have permitted several persons to proceed this season to the East Indies to be entertained in the Company's service as Surgeons at any of our settlements where they may be wanted, if found deserving next after such as have been already recommended. We now send you in the several packets lists of the names of such persons signed by our Secretary, and this method we shall practice in future, which you are to observe as a sufficient authentication.

739.—*The Governor's Commission on the Coral.**

[COURT'S LETTER, JUNE 1, PARA. 21.]

We do not mean to hinder His Lordship from receiving the usual Commission arising form the Coral and other licensed articles consigned to him by private Merchants, this, His Lordship is to have the benefit of in the usual manner.

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* Referring to the case of Lord Clive, who was allowed 6,000 pounds sterling a year, to be paid monthly, but no extras except one per cent. commission on the 2½ per cent. coinage duty.

740.—*Suspension of various Servants.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 8.]

We have in the most careful and attentive manner taken a view of the Registers of your proceedings for the year 1761, and from that time to the 19th February 1763, (the last received) wherein we find to our great concern the conduct and behaviour of many of our servants have been inconsistent with their duty to, and detrimental to the interest of the Company, in a variety of instances which too glaringly appear upon the face of your said Registers, particularly with respect to the present Subah of Bengal Cossim Ali Khan, with whom it is most evident the strictest friendship and harmony ought to have been cultivated, instead whereof, he and his Government have met with so much improper and injurious treatment, and been defrauded in his Revenues by the licentious trade of our said servants, and the Agents acting under and countenanced by them to so great a degree that we dread the consequences; it is high time therefore to remedy these evils by exerting our authority in removing such persons, who if continued would (from what we have already observed of their behaviour) throw our affairs into the utmost confusion, and by appointing such others in their room, from whose good management we shall expect such care and attention to the true interests of the Company that we may not again be under the necessity of recurring to such a disagreeable measure.

In our letter of the 13th May last we removed Mr. Ellis* from our service in Bengal, and took some notice of the intemperate conduct of Mr. Stanlake Batson at Cossimbazar.† We now proceed to inform you that we have dismissed from the Company's service Mr. Peter Amyatt, Major John Carnac,‡ Mr. John Johnstone and Mr. William Hay, and they are accordingly from the receipt of this letter to have no further concern in our affairs, and are to be sent home in some of the ships which will be despatched in the season of the year 1765.

As to Mr. Batson, his conduct at present appears to us in a very unfavorable light, from the share he had in the disputes with the Country Government with respect to the Inland Private Trade; in his unjust

* Mr. Ellis was noted for his intemperate and haughty conduct towards the Nawab.

† The same person who struck Warren Hastings in Council.

‡ Major Carnac was afterwards honorably restored; he showed that it would have been madness to advance against Mir Kasim with his hospital half full of soldiers, and the country almost impassable from the rains.

charge of a design on the Subah to treat the Begum his mother-in-law with cruelty; by interfering with the Prince's Officers in the affair of Hurry Chunder, Daroga of Patchoroterah, wherein two persons of his Escort were killed and two others wounded; also in giving protection at Cossimbazar to Mirza Doud, who had withdrawn himself from the Subah's authority; we therefore direct that Mr. Batson do forthwith stand suspended from the Company's service until he acquits himself to the satisfaction of you our Governor and Council, on the said several points, or such others as have been alleged against him during the time of his being Chief at Cossimbazar. If he acquits himself to your satisfaction, he is to be restored to our service and station, if otherwise he is to be dismissed, but whatever turn this enquiry takes, you are to send us a particular account of your proceedings.

Mr. William Billers has not behaved entirely to our satisfaction, in particular his opposing the regulations and restraints for the limitation of the Inland Private Trade, calculated for the making an end of the disputes with the Country Government on that head, shews he has not the Company's interest at heart so much as in duty he ought. You are therefore to give him a reprimand in our name at the Board, and caution him to behave in such manner that we may have no occasion for finding any fault with him in future.

Among other instances of Mr. John Cartier's and his Council's behaviour we have great reason to believe that during his being Chief at Dacca, they connived at, or did not use their best endeavours to remedy the great abuses and insults which occurred at that place, by the Gomastahs and other people employed in carrying on private trade, you are therefore to make a strict enquiry into the conduct of those gentlemen, with respect to the said abuses and insults, and pass such a censure thereon (if they deserve it) as you shall think proper. And you are particularly to examine into the circumstance mentioned in your consultations of the 14th October 1762 relating to a party of Sepoys being sent from Dacca to Sylhet, who there fired upon and killed one of the principal people and afterwards made the Zemindar prisoner and forcibly carried him away from the last named place, and you are to cause justice to be done on whomsoever shall appear culpable in that unhappy affair.

The part which Mr. Hugh Watts has taken, as it appears on the face of your advices and consultations, we deem very blameworthy; in his agreeing to the letter on Consultation of the 13th of November 1762,

wherein the Subah is treated in disrespectful and indecent terms; for joining in the resolution to call Major Carnac to the Board on commercial affairs, contrary to our orders in that respect;* for voting to call the Chiefs of the subordinates up to the Court at Fort William; and for his approbation of the measures taken by Messrs. Johnstone and Hay in the disputes with the Country Government, and of the terms in which the sense of the Board on the regulations proposed for limiting the Inland Private Trade are expressed. We do therefore hereby direct that Mr. Watts be forthwith suspended from the Company's service and continue so until he shall have justified his behaviour in the before going instances to our satisfaction; you must forthwith call upon him for his defence, which is to be entered on your consultations for our information.

The conduct and behaviour of Mr. William Bolt, a Factor, falling next under our consideration they appear, so far as he was connected with Messrs. Johnstone and Hay, to be very improper, especially in joining with them in an audacious and impertinent letter to the Phouzdar of Purnea, as it stands on your consultations of the 27th of December 1762, and for which the President recommended to the Council to pass some censure upon him. He appears likewise to have been guilty of irregular practice in respect to carrying on his Private Trade. Let him be called into Council and reprimanded according to his deserts, and inform him, if his conduct is not more satisfactory for the future, we shall dismiss him from the service.

In the course of our enquiry into these transactions, we observe one Cole, said to be a Writer, is complained of for that at Munaur Gunge Haut, which produces annually 12,000 Rs. he had turned out all the inhabitants, in order to build an House as set forth in a letter entered after consultation of the 18th October 1762. Who this Cole is we are not informed, but let him be whom he may, you are to make a strict enquiry into the said outrage, and if you find him guilty of it, you are in the first place to oblige him to make a suitable and ample satisfaction to the injured parties, and then immediately send him away to Europe.

We further find that several persons residing under the Presidency of Bengal, as well Free Merchants as others, have conducted themselves very unwarrantably, carrying on their Trade in several parts of the

* "That the Major or any other Military Officers are to have no seat or voice at the Board, but are to be consulted as occasions may require, of which you are the properest judges."

Country in the most uncontroulable manner and thereby exposing the Company's valuable privileges to the greatest detriment and hazard. Some of whose names, who appear the most remarkable, are Messrs. Chevalier, Texeyra, Ivy, Motte, Robinson and the before mentioned Cole. With respect to Free Merchants they certainly by such behaviour forfeit their Covenants, and as to others they have no right to the Company's protection, especially if they are guilty of the irregularities laid to their charge. We shall therefore leave it to you to make a general enquiry into the behaviour of such persons who reside anywhere under your Presidency, and if you find their behaviour has been or shall be such as may be really detrimental to the Company, you are to withdraw our protection from them and send them away from Bengal as soon as you shall think proper, giving us from time to time an account of your proceedings with respect to every such person.

741.—*Orders to Seize and Withdraw Interlopers.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 10.]

The Commanders of the several Ships in the Company's service having hitherto been furnished with Commissions under the Company's Seal, authorizing them to arrest, seize and send and remit to England all persons who shall be found in the East Indies contrary to the several Acts of Parliament made in that behalf and cited in the said Commissions. As we do not find the granting such Commissions to our Commanders has had any good effect, on the contrary, it has afforded them an opportunity of distressing country Traders, by taking away their men, under a pretence of their completing their ships' complement, we have therefore thought proper to discontinue the practice of granting the Captains of our Europe ships the said Commissions.*

742.—*The Dutch to be Conciliated.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 34.]

We are extremely glad to find by your letter of the 14th February 1763 that the disagreeable altercations and disputes between the English and Dutch Factories concerning the Opium Trade have been

* About the same time they issued an order recalling to Calcutta all Europeans or their Gomastahs engaged in the inland trade, especially that in salt, betle nut and tobacco.

accommodated by the President when he was at Patna to the satisfaction of both parties. As there is reason to believe that both our servants, and those of the Dutch, have been to blame, we strictly charge it upon you to see that the conduct of our servants in the providing or purchasing this article is such as may prevent every reason for complaint, and on the other hand the greatest care must be taken that the Dutch behave in like manner to ours.

743.—*Schemes of Conquest not good.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 39.]

We are informed in a letter from your Select Committee of the 8th April 1762, that the design against the Mahrattas at Cuttack was dropped, as from the situation of affairs and the condition of the Nawab, we must have become principals in the expedition. It is with real pleasure therefore we find that project was not carried into execution, and we must add that no schemes for Military operations are to be adopted unless they are evidently and most materially necessary for the Company's interests. Conquests are not our aim and if we can secure and preserve our present possessions in Bengal, we shall rest well satisfied.

744.—*Chaplains to be limited to two.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 62.]

Upon the decease of your two Chaplains Mr. Cape and Mr. Stavely, we observe you have appointed and recommended for our confirmation the Reverend Mr. William Hurst, Chaplain to Admiral Cornish, and Mr. William Parry, Chaplain to His Majesty's 84th Regiment, of both which Gentlemen you give good characters. But as we have never had more than two chaplains upon the Bengal establishment and we sent out last season the Reverend Mr. Furnival Bowen as one of them, he is to be the first Chaplain in rank, and we confirm your appointment of Mr Hurst who is to be the second.

If there is a vacancy by the decease of Mr. Bowen or Mr. Hurst, then we would have it filled up by the Reverend Mr. Parry, but if both the first mentioned Gentlemen are at Fort William, he is to remain there in the rank of Third Chaplain until there is a vacancy by the death or

coming away of either of them, or he is to succeed on any vacancy at our Presidency at Fort St. George or that of Bombay, but after Mr. Parry is provided for in any of the before mentioned modes you are to return to the original establishment of having no more at any one time than two Chaplains.

745.—*The Revenues, Military Charges.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22ND, PARA. 86.]

From the view presented to us in your letter of the 14th of February 1763 of the expences and revenues of your Presidency, it appears that the former amount to the amazing sum of forty lacs of Rupees out of the sixty lacs which you compute the revenues at, so that there remains no more than twenty lacs for providing your investments, for our China trade, the assistance of Bombay, and various other calls for money, without drawing Bills upon us to an amount which has been, and we fear will still continue to be, of great inconvenience to us, however we must submit to it so far as you find really necessary for the before mentioned purposes. But as the Military expense alone are computed at no less than thirty lacs, certainly, as you observe, it should be an object of your most serious attention, and we accordingly most strongly recommend your reassuming the consideration of reducing the same as far as it can be done consistently with the plan for maintaining the number of Troops, laid down in our letter of the 30th of December, in every item that can possibly admit it, and here the article of Batta is a very striking one, and as we cannot but think it may with great propriety and reason be much reduced, we shall expect to hear that according to former order, as well as these, you have and will seriously and earnestly set about and succeed in a work of such great importance. With care and due regard to economy we are satisfied much may be saved also in the expence of your works, in short wherever savings can with propriety be made it is incumbent on and recommended to you to make them.

746.—*An Annual Census of Europeans to be taken.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 87.]

The Lists which we receive from your Presidency of persons residing or trading under our protection have been hitherto very imperfect and insufficient to answer the purposes for which they are wanted,

you must therefore cause exact Lists to be taken every year of all persons whatsoever within the limits or jurisdiction of your Presidency, specifying therein their present capacity, whether they reside at Fort William, the subordinates or any other places, and if they have or have not the Company's license, and you are to require the Master Attendant to deliver in to you annually Lists of all seafaring people employed in the Company's or private service, in which he is to distinguish their stations and whether they have the Company's permission or not, and you must take care to forward to us both these Lists in duplicate, at least every season.

747.—*The Opium trade.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 94.]

We observe with satisfaction the provision you have made, and was making, of Opium for our Settlements on the West Coast as mentioned in your letter of the 14th of February 1763, and tho' we make no doubt of a continuance of your care, yet we think it right to remind you of, and enforce our former orders on this subject contained in our letters to you of the 1st of April and 31st of December 1760, for reserving the trade in that article, upon the said Coast to ourselves, and furnishing our President and Council there with whatever quantities they want, and indent for in the best and cheapest manner, to which we now add, in order to prevent any illicit trade therein, that all private traders to the West Coast shall make an entry of the Cargoes either at Fort Marlborough or Nattal before they proceed to other parts, under the penalty of seizure of all Opium carried in such Ships otherwise than on the Company's account and the offenders forfeiting our service or protection. This prohibition and the entry of the Cargoes is to be in force with respect to all our Presidencies and Settlements from which any trade is carried on to the said Coast, and you are accordingly, so far as respects yours, to take all the care in your power to cause them to be strictly observed.

748.—*Surgeons in Calcutta to be paid partly by their Patients.*

[COURT'S LETTER, FEBRUARY 22, PARA. 119.]

You inform us you have appointed two additional Surgeons at Calcutta to succeed to the office of Principal Surgeons when those we have already nominated shall have been provided for, that some further

assistance is necessary on account of the increased number of persons in our service, Civil and Military, we cannot but admit, but with respect to the inhabitants, they most certainly ought to reward the Physicians who attend them at their own expense. We allow therefore of your said appointments on these conditions however that they are to be deemed Assistants only, and that their allowances from the Company shall be proportionably less than the Principal Surgeons.

749.—*The Military to be Subordinate to the Civil Power.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JUNE, PARA. 40.]

We need only remind you that all our Officers and others in the Military Department are, as they ought and were always intended to be, according to the constitution of the Company, subordinate to and under the direction of the Civil Power of the President and Council, and we direct that this fundamental right be accordingly kept up and maintained in a proper manner.

750.—*Account Books, Irregularity in despatching.*

[COURT'S LETTER, JUNE 1, PARA. 45.]

We have so repeatedly complained of the great inconveniences arising to us from the want of the General Books of your Presidency that we could not have apprehended it would be necessary for us to say anything further upon the subject, but we cannot help renewing our remonstrance on observing by your Consultations of the 27th June 1763 that the General Books to April 1759 only were then balanced and delivered to the Sub Acountant.

751.—*Character of the Burdwan Rajah.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 9.]

We think these resolutions* the more necessary and equitable as the Rajah is well known to be a man incapable of doing business, and of course liable to be mis-led by any person who gets the ascendancy over him for the time, and that upon the whole therefore it is our meaning to preserve the Rajah all his private emoluments of the Denry Lands and his name over the zemindary without any actual authority.

* That the Raja should not himself judge in the case of charges he brings against his Local Officers.

752.—*Presents to the Nawab's children.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 9.]

The Honorable Company ... ... *Dr.*

To the following articles bought for presents and given to the Nawab's children :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
One silver Toothpick	9	0	0
One ditto large, with instruments	25	0	0
One gilt silver case with smelling bottle	11	0	0
One ditto large, with instruments	26	0	0
One Chelsea China smelling bottle	18	0	0
One Lady's Pocket stand with pens and pencil	32	0	0
One Snuff Box painted with figures	6	0	0
Two Fuzees, at 120 Rs. each	240	0	0
Three pair Pistols, at 120 Rs. per pair	360	0	0
Arcot Rupees ...	727	0	0

CALCUTTA, 21*st December* 1763. } Errors Excepted,
(Sd.) HENRY VANSITTART.

753.—*Punishments for debtors in Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 26.]

On the other hand we think such Farmers as have fallen short* of that stipulation to pay in what they collected should be compelled to make good their balances by the punishments usual in zemindarys of imprisonment and confiscation of the effects both of themselves and their securities, or if these means prove ineffectual, and it should appear it will answer the end intended, by punishing the principals with stripes.

754.—*Dacca misfortunes.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 16.]

Mr. Leycester states respecting the loss of the Dacca Factory by the Europeans—"In an entire want of Coolies it was resolved to disarm some "of our Sepoys, and employ them in that capacity, first to convey our "sick and wounded, then our Treasure, and at last retreat with the

* Of yielding the increase in rent bid at the last outcry.

"remainder of our Garrison. The sick had mostly been sent to the "waterside in pursuance of this resolution, to be put on board the few "boats we had been able to collect at the Ghaut, when many of our "Sepoys left the Factory, and Mr. Leycester assures the Board that "while he was in the Factory expecting that Boats were come to "the Ghaut sufficient to secure the Treasure and remainder of the "Garrison, all the Sepoys in a body left the Factory without any "orders, and flew to the few boats that were already come, in the utmost "confusion and irregularity, rendering their own retreat under such "circumstances very precarious, and putting it out of the power of the "gentlemen to conduct the affair in the manner that had been really "proposed, and he does hope that when the Board consider the resolutions "the gentlemen had taken under such an emergency for the security "of the Garrison and the Company's Treasure, and how unfortunately "and unavoidably they were rendered incapable of executing the reso-"lution they had taken, they will be pleased to view the matter in a "very different light, and allow that however unfortunate they were in "being deprived of the means they had resolved on, by the disorderly "behaviour of the Sepoys, they were not wanting in duty and regard "for the Company's interest, but took the only resolutions that were "practicable under such unhappy circumstances."

755.—*Depth of the river for Ships.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 1.]

Agreed it be henceforward established as a standing order that no pilot do take charge of any of the Company's ships with a greater draft of water than 19½ feet on an even keel. That in case of any ships drawing more than that, he (the Pilot) is on no account to move her, but to protest against the Commander, and transmit advice thereof immediately to the Master Attendant, who will apply to the Board for further orders.

To the Hon'ble Henry Vansittart, Esq., *President and Governor and Council.*

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,—Being informed by some of our Pilots that the ship "Deptford" draws 22 feet water, which renders it impracticable for any Pilot to take charge of her out of this river without being attended with the utmost danger as well as great risk to the Company's interest in case of an accident.

I request that your Honor and Council will please to give the form of a protest to be served on such occasions, and that all the Hon'ble Company's ships may be limited to nineteen feet water on an even keel, there being no more than 4 fathoms at low water spring tides from Ingellee down to the Buoy of the Fairway, and further that you will pass such a standing order as will indemnify the Pilots and prevent such practices in the Commanders for the time to come.

CALCUTTA, 1st *March* 1764. (Sd.) ALEXANDER SCOTT, *Master Attendant.*

756.—*Debatra land to belong only to priests and schools.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 5.]

Agreed that the Burmutter and Dibutter and Charity lands of all kinds shall be put upon the same footing in the province of Burdwan as they have been in the Calcutta Pergunnahs, that is to say, that all those which upon a strict enquiry shall be found to be really applied to maintaining of Priests, or Schools, shall be exempt from any Tax. But that all others which are not applied to these purposes and have fallen into the hands of Mutsuddies, Banians, &c., shall be rated and charged at Batta.

757.—*Chinese prisoners of war.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 5.]

To ANTHONY DES FORGES BOUCHER, ESQ., *Knight of the Order of St. Louis and Governor of the Isle of France.*

SIR,—The Count D'Estaing having carried away to the Mauritius many of the Chinese inhabitants of our settlements on the Island of Sumatra, who being free British subjects could only be regarded as prisoners of war, I am persuaded, now that peace is happily concluded between our two nations, that you will without difficulty restore them. I have therefore sent the Company's ship "Middlesex," Captain Henry Fletcher to receive them and carry them back to Bencoolen, I beg the favor you will despatch her with as much expedition as can conveniently be done, and that you will likewise put on board of her such persons as were taken by Mr. Palliere in the course of his cruize as well as any other British subjects who may have been carried to the Islands.

I am happy in this opportunity of paying my respects to you, and beg leave to make you an offer of my services in this part of the world.*

I have the honor to be very perfectly,
SIR,
Your most obedient humble servant,
(Sd.) HENRY VANSITTART.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 5th March 1764.

758.—*Corporal punishment of nonpayers of rent.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 2.]

Those Farmers in Burdwan from whom there is little prospect of recovering their whole balances must be obliged to pay what they can by sale of their effects and those of their securities, or by corporal punishment where it appears it will answer the end of procuring farther payments, and that their Farms be taken from them at the end of this year.

759.—*Patna massacre, Monument of.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 18.]

Agreed we write to Patna, desiring they will apply to the Nawab through the Resident at the Durbar to make over to us the House where the massacre was perpetrated, and the Ground thereunto belonging, and having obtained such a Grant to have the House entirely demolished and the whole Ground railed in in a square in the centre of which the Monument will be erected agreeably to a Plan which we shall send them.

760.—*Military overcharges on Munshis and Writers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 9.]

The Board having taken a review of the Camp Accounts for the space of six months the following Extracts are made therefrom of charges which appear to them extraordinary and singular, and the following resolutions and orders are passed in consequence, to prevent any such charges from being admitted in future.

* The French Governor refused to give up these Chinese prisoners.

EXTRACTS.

In the Month of October.

No. 1. Major Adams' Moonshee and writer	A. Rs.	150	0	0
Major Shirlock's Banian and Linguist ...	„	70	0	0
Major Knox's Moonshee and Writer ...	„	160	0	0
Captain Long's Banian and Writer ...	„	70	0	0

In the Month of November.

Major Adams' Moonshee &c....		150	0	0
Major Shirlock's Banian &c. ...		100	0	0

No. 3. In the Month of November charged for Commander-in-Chief's Table expenses for August, September, and October ... ... 26,642.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS.

That no Moonshee, Linguist, Banian or Writer be allowed to any Officer excepting the Commander-in-Chief and the Commanders of detachments during the time they are out on Command, and provided the Commander-in-Chief shall think such persons necessary in the service they may be sent on.

761.—*Old coinage, its weight and name.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 30.]

From Mr. Campbell, the Mint Master.

The following report appears in the order in which the Assays were made:—

		Dwts.	Grs.	Dms.
Old Bombay Rupee	Br. St.	13	18	0
New Calcutta Sicca	„	13	6	25
Dacca Rupee	„	6	6	0
Good Arcot	„	3	6	0
Bad Arcot	„	3	0	0
Patna Rupee	„	13	22	0
Another Coinage of the same Rupee ...		13	13	44
Lucknow of one sort	Mr. H.	3	11	0
Old Muxadabad Sicca	Br. St.	4	16⅓	0
5 Sun Muxadabad do.	„	13	1	0
3 Sun Muxadabad do.	„	13	1½	0
New Bombay Rupee	„	13	9	25
Old Calcutta Sicca	„	13	12	0

762.—*Murder at Backergunge.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 13.]

Mr. Hastings lays before the Board the substance of a letter, which he has received from Backergunge, giving an account of an act of barbarity committed against Captain John Rose by the Manjee and Dandies belonging to his Budgerow. Ordered it be entered, and, agreed we write to Dacca and Chittagong with copies of it desiring they will use all possible diligence to endeavour to discover and seize the persons concerned therein.

Substance of a letter from Phillis and Nicola, two slaves belonging to Captain Ross, written from Backergunge the 22nd Bhaudan.

On the 11th Bhaudan whilst the Boats were at Kerma in Soonderbund a little before day-break, Captain Ross arose and ordered the Manjee to put off with the Budgerow. Returning to the great Budgerow the Dandies pushed him into the water. He laid hold on the Budgerow, but the Dandies and Manjee pushed him off, and he was carried away by the flood-tide. Then the Manjees went after him in a wollock to look for him, but could not find him, and returned to the Budgerow. They seized us and binding our hands beat us, bidding us tell where our Master's Gold Mohurs were. We gave them the earrings of the girl. The treasure, effects and every thing else they took possession of. The apparel and papers remained in the great Budgerow. They put all the things into the small Budgerow and Ponsway. The Manjees and Dandies went in them towards Backergunge, before this putting us into the cabin of the great Budgerow, and fastening the doors, they broke up the planks of the Budgerow, both before and aft the Hatches. We broke open the windows and got into the water, swimming to the Jungles, where we remained five days, when a boat belonging to Ramgoo in Tellee with Badoolla Manjee and Mahomed Jemma and Booravoolla, Peons passing by in their way from Jessore to Backergunge, we hailed them and they took us up. Four days after we reached Backergunge.

763.—*Account of expences for receiving the Nawab.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 11.]

Boats attending the Governor at Ghiratty—							
27 Boats of 6 Oars at 1 Re. per day	...	...	756	0	0		
5 Boats of 5 Oars at 14 as. per day	...	...	122	8	0		
5 Boats of 4 do. at 12 as. per day	...	...	105	0	0		
3 Boats of 3 do. at 10 as. per day	...	...	52	8	0		
1 Boat of 10 do. at 1-8 per day	...	...	42	0	0		
4 Bhand of 4 do. at 2 Rs. per day	...	...	224	0	0		
1 Budgerow of 8 do. at 1-8 per day	...	...	42	0	0		
2 Ditto of 10 do. at 2-8 per day	...	...	140	0	0		
1 Ditto of 10 do. at 2 per day for 10 days	...		20	0	0		
						1,504	0 0
30 Dandies belonging to the Moopanky Boliah and Budgerow at 3 Rs. per month	...	...	95	8	0		
3 Manjies at 5 Rs. per month	...	...	14	0	0		
						109	8 0

Provisions sent to the Nawab and his people—						
40 Maunds of rice			75	0	0	
8 „ of dhall			20	2	0	
5 „ of ghee			77	0	0	
6 „ of oil			51	0	0	
3½ „ of salt			4	6	0	
8 „ of wheat flour			27	0	0	
5 „ of sugar			36	4	0	
6 „ of sweetmeat			60	0	0	
1 „ of morabah			19	0	0	
1 „ of almonds and kismiss			31	4	0	
8 „ of tyre			21	4	0	
50 goats			50	0	0	
Greens			16	0	0	
Limes			7	0	0	
Spices			140	6	0	
Betelnut and tobacco			10	12	0	
Earthen-ware and firewood			26	0	0	
Baskets, gunny bags, and dubbers			24	0	0	
One piece of gurrah cloth			4	0	0	
Cooley hire			10	0	0	
					730	6 0
Gold mohurs presented to the Nawab upon the visit in the usual form—						
51 for the Company's Servants, Civil and Military.						
40 for the Mayor and Aldermen and other inhabitants.						
91 Mohurs at Rs. 12-11 per mohur 1					1,154	9 0
	Arcot Rs.				3,498	7 0

CALCUTTA,
The 5th September 1764.

764.—*New Council Room.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 15.]

The present Council Room being from its situation greatly exposed to the heat of the weather* and from its vicinity to the Public Office very ill-calculated for conducting the business of the Board with that

* The old Council Room was shut in by houses to the south. There were no punkahs then, men had to endure the heat in their white jackets, with the slight degree of air the *chanries* gave. On the trial of Nankumar the heat was so great one day, that one of the Judges had to go out six times to put on six changes of linen.

privacy which is often requisite. It is agreed to build a new Council Room at a convenient distance from the offices, and that it shall be done under the inspection of Mr. Fortnom, the Civil Architect.

765.—*Additions to salaries to Chaplains and Head Surgeons.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 1.]

Taking into consideration the great increase of expenses in Calcutta, arising particularly from the extravagance of the article of house-rent, house-keeping and servants' wages, and the inadequacy of the stipends of the Chaplains and Head Surgeons to defray those expenses. It is agreed to add to their allowances the sum of one hundred current rupees a month to be paid by the Buxey as charges extraordinary.

766.—*Church-room urgently needed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 12.]

The Chaplains and Church Wardens send in a letter representing that the number of inhabitants is so greatly increased that there is not room in the chapel for one half of them to attend Divine Service,* and therefore requesting we will direct the church in the new Fort to be built with all expedition. Ordered the letter to be entered, and that the Engineer be in consequence thereof summoned to attend us next Thursday with the plans of all the interior buildings in the new Fort, particularly those of the Governor's House, the other principal houses, the church and the apartments for the Company's junior servants.

767.—*Dakaits at Dacca.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 19.]

The President presents to the Board the Nawab's order on Mahomed Reza Khan for recovering the losses of Mr. Ross' estates† and directing him to call upon the assistance of the Dacca Factory for some Sepoys to go in armed boats and endeavour to discover and root out the dacoits.

* * This Chapel was over the gateway and next the Black Hole. No Church was built for twenty years after this.

† Mr. Ross had in cash on Board 5,800 Rs., an inventory is given of his Effects, among the items were a silver tea pot and coffee pot, 1 silver rose water bottle valued at 80 Rs., 10 gold sleeve buttons 20 Rs., 1 shaving box 30 Rs., 4 Slaves 240 Rs., the whole of his property was estimated at 13,000 Rs.

768.—*Persian, encouragement for.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 26.]

Mr. William Weston, one of the writers, who came out last year having by much application rendered himself very capable in the Persian language, agreed he be stationed an assistant under the Translators, with an allowance of 100 Rupees a month as well in the light of a reward to him as an encouragement to the other young servants to qualify themselves in that language.

769.—*Mir Kasim's roguery.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 1ST JANUARY.]

To the King of Delhi, from the Governor.

May it please your Majesty, Meer Cossim has carried away with him the money due to the Imperial Court, which was collected in the Treasury, together with all the riches of the Country.* I hope and trust that your Majesty will take from him the balances due to the Court. From the time of Meer Cossim's expulsion, Meer Jaffier Khan has been heartily ready to obey your commands, and we Englishmen are strict allies to him and obedient servants to your Majesty, but Meer Mahomed Jaffier Khan is exhausted by the expenses of the present war, and the Country is ruined by the violences and oppressions of Meer Cossim.

770.—*Robbery in Nuddea.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 6TH JANUARY.]

To Mahomed Yar Beg Khan, Collector of Nuddea, from the Governor.

As Mahomed Mobarick and Mirza Budloo and other persons belonging to Shayista Khan, a merchant and inhabitant of Mootimishabad, were on the 6th of Shevoul of the 3rd year despatched from Moorshedabad to Radhanuggur with 13,000 Rs. to purchase some goods for trade, and were killed on the road in the Pergunnah of Nuddea belonging to the Zemindary of Raja Kissenchund, by some highwaymen who carried away the money. Shayista Khan therefore went and laid his complaint before the Imperial Court, and accordingly he is now arrived with me with letters he has procured from His Majesty the Nabob Nujjeeb-ul-

* Mir Kasim plundered the merchants of crores of rupis; the English Government were very indignant yet notwithstanding his crimes he received a khilat from Delhi.

Dowla, the Nabob Gaulib Jung Bukshee of the Empire, and Hafiz Rahmut Khan, of which I enclose you copies for your information. I therefore desire that you will hear all the particulars from the mouth of Shayista Khan, and inflict due punishment on the Zemindar's Gomastah and the other inhabitants of whatever place he may point out, and that you will take up the robbers and restore his money to him and send him back to me, that I may answer the letters and give him his dismission, and you will bring the robbers to justice, that no such disorders may happen in future in Raja Kissenchund's Zemindary, and with the utmost satisfaction.

771.—*The pass of Telligherry.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 7TH MAY.]

To Hussun Aly Khan, Foujdar of Rajmehal.

It being necessary to guard the pass of Telligherry* in order to prevent any of the enemy's people from coming this way, I desire that you will send there for that purpose all the Horse and Foot that you have under your command. The Government Troops from Moorshedabad and a body of Europeans and Sepoys belonging to the Company are coming to your assistance, and have orders to guard the said pass in conjunction with you, and to punish the enemy in case they should make their appearance.

772.—*Imprisonment of Hindus.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 11TH MAY.]

To Mahomed Eritch Khan, Naib of Moorshedabad.

As Ramnarain Mustoophy and Raja Kissenchund† and Laulapertub Roy, son-in-law of the Royroyan, were kept for two years in close confinement by the enemy, and since their making their escape a guard has again been placed over them at Moorshedabad, and as at this time of troubles it is necessary that they and all other persons of rank should provide for the security of their families, I desire that you will give them leave to go to their own homes for that purpose. When the Nabob arrives at Moorshedabad, they shall appear before him.

* A strongly fortified position between the Rajmahal hills and the river: it had a fortress one mile in length and was considered at one time the Thermopyl of Bengal against invaders coming from Bahar.

† The Raja of Nuddea.

773.—*Tribeni, Nyesarai.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 21ST MAY.]

To Syud Buddul Khan, Faujdar of Hugly, from the Governor.

A detachment with guns and Military stores being marched under the command of Captain Grant, and it being very necessary that boats should be provided for them to pass the Nullas of Tirpanny and Nyaserai,* &c., I therefore desire that you will without delay provide what may be necessary for that purpose that the said Army may speedily arrive at their destined post.

774.—*Route between Calcutta and Bombay.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 2ND JUNE.]

To Chumna Sen, Mahratta Chief at Cuttack, from the Governor.

As I understand that letters pass in a short time from Cuttack to Poona, which is a principal town of the Mahrattas, and is but a small distance from Bombay, a settlement belonging to the Company, I therefore want to send a letter to, and get an answer from, the Governor of Bombay, by that road. I have accordingly directed Mr. Hope at Cuttack to hire two Cossids, and give them a reasonable monthly allowance, and despatch them by that road to Bombay. I desire that you will give the said Cossids a passport that no one may interrupt them in the way.†

775.—*Murderers and robbers in the Sunderbunds to be impaled.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 14TH NOVEMBER.]

To the Nabob, from the Governor.

I have already by word of mouth represented to you that as Mr. Rose, an English Gentleman, was travelling in a boat with some money and goods, the boat people murdered him near Backergunge,

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* Near Hugly.

† It is proposed now to have a railway along this route connecting Calcutta by Howra, Midnapore, Sumbulpur, Raipur, with Nagpur—the *direct* route to Bombay.

and carried away the money and goods, and took shelter in the Zemindary of Seetaram. In order to enquire into this affair I sent an Englishman to the said Zemindar, but he would not regard him. I have therefore enclosed for your observation an account of the money and goods that were plundered, and request that you will write an order to the Naib of Dacca to make the Zemindar refund, and inflict such punishment on him as may prevent all such proceedings in future. The number of murderers and robbers in the neighbourhood of Backergunge is daily increasing, insomuch that trading people are now afraid to pass backwards and forwards, wherefore I request that you will give orders to the Naib of Dacca to send some of the Factory Sepoys along with some of his own people to apprehend the said murderers and impale them, which will be very serviceable to traders.

776.—*Robberies on the Frontier.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 10TH JANUARY.]

To Mirza Eritch Cawn, Naib of Murshidabad, from the Governor.

At this time I am informed by a letter from Mr. Williamson at Cossimbazar Factory that a hundred maunds of Silk belonging to the Company were coming from Rampore Beauleah to the said Factory, but were stopped by Dyaram the Zemindar of Rajshaye on the occasion of the troubles breaking out, and that now one Radhakishen an officer of yours has taken the said Silk from the Zemindar into his own possession and has not yet sent it to the Factory.

777.—*Major Adams' death.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 17TH JANUARY.]

To the Nabob, from the Governor.

Major Adams, who being arrived in Calcutta, had rejoiced me with the pleasure of his company on the 13th instant, departed also from this perishable world after an illness of two days, and has left us his friends in the deepest affliction. I am most sorely grieved that it has pleased the Almighty so suddenly to remove him from us after having made him victorious on every occasion, and after he has shewn such repeated acts of bravery; but as there is no remedy against the will of God, and we must all go this same road, I endeavour to bear this misfortune with patience and submission.

778.—*The Raja of Burdwan arbitrarily imprisons.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 1ST FEBRUARY.]

To Raja Tillookchund, from the Governor.

I have received your letter for the Council, mentioning your having imprisoned Gocul Mujmooadar, in order to make him settle his accounts, and your confining Ramdoo Neugee by reason of the money he has sequestered from the Doury's farm, and desiring that you may not be interrupted from seizing your property wherever it is proved, you have full power to appoint and dismiss and deliver the Doury's farm into the hands of whomsoever you please. But it does not appear right that you should hurt or trouble any one without your property being first proved; you should lay the affair before Mr. Johnstone and the Gentlemen of Council at Burdwan, and in case of its being proved you should take measure for recovering the money in concert with those Gentlemen.

779.—*The Bishenpur Raja a debtor.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 24TH FEBRUARY.]

To Raja Damoodur Sing, Raja of Bishenpore, from the Governor.

I am informed by Mahomed Beg, a friend of Syed Buddul Khan, the Foujdar of Hooghley that he was sending some horses for sale to Midnapore, that in the mean time you agreed upon the price and took them, and that you are putting off the payment from time to time, which is contrary to the rules of traffic. Inclosed I transmit you an account which he sent me of what is due to him.

780.—*Dak to Madras; the Mahrattas.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 26TH FEBRUARY.]

To Shubut, from the Governor.

As great delays have lately happened in the passing and repassing of letters between Calcutta and Madras, and the persons who were appointed to forward them have been dilatory and negligent, thinking it necessary therefore to send some English Gentlemen for this business, I have appointed Mr. Marriott to reside at Balasore, Mr. Hope at Cuttack, and Mr. Moore at Malood. In consideration of the strict

friendship subsisting between us I desire that whenever these Gentlemen are in want of any thing, you will upon their application, afford them proper help and assistance, which will give me great satisfaction.*

To Baushir Pundit, Foujdar of Ballasore, from the Governor, 26th February.

I have at this time sent Mr. Marriott to Balasore in order to forward the letters between Madras and Calcutta, &c., and he will accordingly live at the Company's Factory, I therefore desire that you will on all occasions grant him your assistance.

To Chumna Sen, the Mahratta Chief at Cuttack, from the Governor, 24th April.

As letters from the Company and the English Gentlemen constantly passing between this place and Madras, dawks have therefore been stationed from the one place to the other, you will give strict orders to the Zemindars under your jurisdiction to furnish Oil and Musshauls,† and Tom Toms‡ and Pikemen, &c., according to custom, that the letters may pass and repass without interruption.

781.—*The surrender of French Deserters demanded.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 8TH MARCH.]

To Raja Bulwund Sing, from the Governor.

I understand that 150 men have run away from the English camp to your dominions. The following is a short account of their proceedings. In the war between the English and French, some of the French Troops regardless of their duty to their Master behaved in a cowardly manner and were taken by the English army. For a long time they remained in close confinement, and they frequently and earnestly represented to me that as we had saved their lives they did not desire to go anywhere

* The Mahrattas offered to assist the English with cavalry in their campaign with Suraja Dowla, but the English thought them too dangerous auxiliaries to have in Bengal.

† A kind of torches.

‡ The tom toms were beat by the dâk runners to frighten away tigers which infested the jungles that lined the roads.

else but would willingly enter into our service. This was not agreeable to me, however out of kindness to them I complied with their desire, and sent them to the English camp, and gave them money for their subsistence. Now they are fled to your territories. Consider what crimes they will hereafter not scruple to commit, men who were faithless to their own master, who were received under our protection, and now have treacherously deserted us. Be assured that they will behave in a cowardly and perfidious manner and that such is the only advantage to be expected from them.*

782.—*French Soldiers in the English Service.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 8TH MARCH 1864.]

To the Vizier, from the Governor.

At this time I understand the 150 men are fled from the English camp to the district of Benares. This history is as follows. In the war between the English and the French some Frenchmen were taken prisoners by us and long remained in confinement. They frequently and earnestly represented to me that as we had saved their lives they were desirous of passing the rest of their days in our service. Being sensible of the deceitfulness and perfidy which is the characteristic of the French nation I did not place much confidence in their assurances. Nevertheless I released them and sent them to the English camp and they regularly received the pay which I appointed them. Now they want to repeat with you the same behaviour as they have already been guilty of. They are full of cowardice and perfidy. What service did they render their own Master, or men who gave them their lives, that they should be of any use to your Highness, the keeping those faithless men will not be attended with any advantage to you and will derogate from the favor which you have bestowed upon me.

783.—*Conduct of the Native Collector, Birbhum.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 17TH MARCH.]

To Khoda Yar Khan, Collector of Birbhum, from the Governor.

I am informed that in consequence of the false accusation of a strumpet you have imprisoned Soochey Ram the Deloll of Gopalporra

* The French troops deserted the English previous to the battle of Buxar, and went over in a body to Mir Kasim.

Factory, and that you seized the weavers to make them sell you thread and Gurras, by which means the business of the Factory is obstructed. You will be pleased to release the Deloll immediately on the receipt of this letter, and desist from obstructing the weavers and not be guilty of any such proceedings in future.

784.—*Robberies and Murders at Chandernagore.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 12TH APRIL.]

To Syed Buddul Khan, Foujdar of Hugly, from the Governor.

The Gentlemen of Chandernagore having frequently represented to me that the town is much infested by thieves, who break into all the houses by night and commit robberies and murders, I therefore called the Cutwal Mahomed Fazil before me, and as Chandernagore is under your jurisdiction I have sent him to you. It is proper you should severely reprimand him that I may receive no more complaints on this subject.

To Syed Buddul Khan, Foujdar of Hugly, from the Governor, 24th April.

Having received complaints from the inhabitants of Chandernagore of their being much infested with night murderers, I seized the Cutwal of the town and sent him to you and desired that you would appoint some other person to that office for the protection of the town, not for the collection of money. At present I am informed by Suntoos, a merchant of Chandernagore, that you have appointed Officers over the town and are collecting money and have taken upon yourself the management of all affairs there. This is entirely contrary to my inclinations. You will be pleased to desist from collecting money and managing affairs there and only appoint guards to prevent the disturbances of the night murderers.

785.—*Zemindars to provide Ferries.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 12TH APRIL.]

To the Zemindars, Foujdars, Amils, Darogas, and Guzerbauns from Dacca to Calcutta, from the Governor.

As a body of troops is now coming from Dacca to Calcutta, and will want necessaries for crossing over the several Rivers and Nullas in the way, you are therefore hereby required to provide before hand, at the differrent Ghats, whatever boats, &c., may be necessary, that the said troops may cross over without interruption and may speedily arrive here.

786.—*The Nawab's maladministration and Nandkumar.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, 17TH APRIL.]

To the Nabob, from the Governor.

It is with great concern we find ourselves under the necessity of remonstrating to you upon the ill administration of the affairs of these provinces since your accession to the Government, strongly exemplified by the great distress our army has been in for want of grain, tho' the country was freed from any enemy before the crop was cut, and it was as plentiful as ever was known,—in the repeated complaints you have made to us of your want of money, tho' the heaviest collections of the year must have fallen into your hands,—and in general, from the little assistance you now seem able to give us for the distress of our common enemies, to whom can we impute these evils but to Nundcoomar, under whose immediate influence and direction all the affairs of the Government have been hitherto conducted? These are strong instances of his misconduct and negligence, but what gives us still greater reason to be dissatisfied with him is, that from advices lately received from Major Carnac, we have too much reason to suspect he has been carrying on a secret correspondence with the enemy and counteracting every measure we have been taking for the support of your Government. Notwithstanding the repeated representations which have been made to you for supplies of grain, Major Carnac for want of it has been obliged to return to the Soane.

787.—*On Europeans settling in the Mofussil.**

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JULY 21.]

On the question of calling down all European Agents from the Factories to Calcutta, Mr. Billars, Member of Council, states:—I don't conceive it possible to lay the European Agents under such restrictions as to prevent their meddling with the Country Government by setting up for Phousdars wherever they go, which has been too much the case of late.

Mr. Verelst, Member of Council, on the same subject:—He can aver that he has never had a complaint against any of his European Agents, though he cannot say so much of the black Gomastahs whose tyrannical and arbitrary dispositions, when in authority, do incline them to a search after their own interest and a disregard to every means they may think

* This was only within the last two years.

most convenient to promote it, nor can the strictest eye over them, and even the infliction of punishment, root the evil out, whereas he believes that few Europeans are without some principles of honor and justice.

Mr. Johnstone, Supervisor of Burdwan records in a Minute:—It must be well known to all who have had their concerns managed at the discretion of Bengal Gomastahs at a distance what embezzlements and deceits they are guilty of, and that the temptation to make away with their employer's money is stronger than any fear of corporal punishment or imprisonment, which they submit to for years sooner than refund, as yet neither death nor loss of cast has been annexed to their breach of trust. Is it to be expected their fidelity and moderation in the exercise of their Trusts will be increased by knowing that we are without other resources obliged to employ them alone. To oblige us therefore to trust our fortunes solely to the fidelity of black servants, over whom, we have so little hank* rather than to the conduct and discretion of men that we ourselves it is presumed ought to know who are to be judged of and approved by the Board, who have their honor, character and their future success at stake, in my humble opinion is neither right nor salutary.

788.—*Intended mutiny among Sepoys.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, AUGUST 13, 20.]

Major Kemble writes from Patna, August 3rd:—Captain Smith informed me yesterday that he had certain intelligence from his Adjutant of a concerted scheme amongst the Sepoys, to march off this morning with fixed Bayonets and loaded Arms. In this situation I had only to think of and apply an immediate remedy; to oppose them with the European Troops I had with me I knew was not to be attempted, and it is obvious that seizing their Arms would be attended with dangerous consequences.

To Major Stibbert.

SIR,—This morning at gun-fire Captain Scotland's Battalion mutinied and seized the Guns, marching off with their Arms. Captain Grant unluckily went to expostulate with them, and they put him prisoner carrying him off. This our Battalion refused to obey standing to their arms but did not then march off. I got them at last to promise to rescue their Captain, served them and my own Battalion (that stood firm) ammunition, and marched after the revolters, but had scarce got out of Camp when the spirit of mutiny began to rage again, and they took my sword, beat me, and put

* Sic! in original.

me prisoner, marching after the others. I edged by degrees towards my horse, mounted and got off to my own Battalion and have taken post in the front of the Camp, the rest are gone towards Culna Ghaut, if they should not be brought over I will take post this night in the Mosque and expect a reinforcement, for I am too weak to attempt any thing by force. The Officers of the two Battalions are prisoners. The rascals can give no reason for their proceeding, but call out for money, though they have had their pay and batta but two days ago.

MONIER, (MONGHYR), *7th of August*, 9 *o'clock* A. M } I am, &c.,
(Sd.) ALEXR. DOW.

To Governor Vansittart.

SIR,—Since I wrote to you at one this afternoon, I have the pleasure to inform you that I have with difficulty, and contrary to my expectations, prevailed upon both the Battalions to come back with me upon condition they got the same as any other Battalion gets, and this I have bound myself to give them. I am just arrived back with them and have some hopes to be able to keep them within bounds, so I make good my promise to them, I must therefore request that any sum that is given or promised to any of the other Battalions be sent here for each of those with me, for without I keep my promise to them I cannot expect any obedience from them, should there have been any Detachment marched upon account of my former letter, I think it would be better to call it back, for any stir of that sort would make them immediately seize upon all of us here, and more than probable carry us off clear. I am at present getting all Boats put out of the way, for were it not want of means to cross the river I am persuaded the two Battalions, and all of us along with them, would have been now some coss into the Budgepore Country. I must beg to hear from you frequently for a day or two.

MONIER, *7th August, 7 o'clock at night.* } I am, &c., &
(Sd.) HUGH GRANT.

To Major Champion, dated 7th August 1764, *mid-night.*

DEAR SIR,—Captain Scotland's Battalion will not trust their arms out of their stands. I arrived this night here about 10 o'clock within a coss of Monier, when I despatched a man to Captain Dow, to let him know of my coming, as I did not think it prudent to join him immediately, which it is very lucky I did not, as Captain Grant was come back there with the Battalions that went off in the morning to Culwar Ghat, but as mutinous as ever, and declared, as they had got some intelligence of our coming, that they would put every European to death with them, if any Force should be sent there. Captain Grant and all the gentlemen got away from them in the night and are now with us except Lieutenant Feak, also some of the Gunners have got away and are with us. Lieutenant Martin who was left at Culwar with two Companies I have ordered to march to Bangipore, if he can get them there; they are

of Grant's Battalion, and he says are not much inclined to mutiny. I have sent away several messages to the Mutineers to send a proper person to me with their reasons for making this commotion, and to let me know their demands; as we cannot think of going to them ourselves, in the first place for fear of being made prisoners, and in the next of their firing upon us, which it seems they are much inclined to do. Be assured I shall use my best endeavours, and take every method in my power to bring them to their duty again.

Believe me, dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) G. STIBBERT.

Monier, 8th August 1764, ½ *past* 10 *o'clock* A. M.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that with great difficulty I am in hopes we have contented the Battalions that revolted here without making them any particular promises, otherwise than giving my word and honor that if any of the other Battalions received any more donation they should do the same. Their demands have been very extravagant, nothing less than proportionable share with the Europeans, but upon representing to them that the four lacs of Rupees the Nabob allotted them has been equally divided amongst their corps, which being so much larger than the Europeans, has made their shares so small, they seemed to be something satisfied. However they say Majors Adams and Knox promised them their Cartouch Boxes full of Rupees, and dwelt upon this subject much. They have also demanded that all Court Martials should be struck off, but to this we have avoided giving them any particular answer, and in the hurry of the subject of the donation, &c., past off. There is one thing they brought up, which I am greatly afraid will be made too soon a general complaint of. They say (that is some few of them old servants) that their pay is too small, and that they cannot subsist upon it, and give hints they want the same as they formerly used to receive thirteen rupees per month.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, SEPTEMBER 24.]

Major Munro writes to the President, September 8th:—Two hours after our field day was over, a letter arrived from Ensign Grant of Captain Galliez's Battalion, acquainting me that the Battalion had mutinied that morning as they had done exercise and marched off the parade immediately with their arms, and encamped about one coss and a half from Mangee. Ensign Grant and their Officers followed them to endeavour to bring them back, but to no purpose; they said that they would go to the enemy unless they got their prize money, and must have an equal share with the Europeans, but that they would wait where they then were till we could acquaint the Commander-in-Chief with their demands.

Major Munro writes to the President, September 16th:—I ordered Captain Wemys to march his prisoners directly to the exercising ground, where I was to receive him with all the Troops in Chupperah (except the sentries) and four field pieces; upon the whole being properly drawn up I asked the mutineers if they could assign any reason for their behaviour, or if any body persuaded them to it. They then laid the whole blame upon the Grenadiers only, upon which I told their Commandant and the rest of their Officers and such of the Privates who had not gone off that if they did not immediately pick me out those they knew to be principals in

the mutiny, I would that instant dismiss the former from the service, and look upon the latter equally concerned with the rest, and put it on the footing that nothing but fear made them return (which was absolutely the case with some of them who went after the rest, but thro' fear returned to Camp at Chupperah in the night time) they immediately upon my telling them as above, pitched upon 25 of the ringleaders. I ordered a General Court Martial upon the spot composed of the Officers of Captain Trevanion's Battalion, at the same time told them that if they did not pass a proper sentence, I would pay no regard to it, and would besides take the proper notice of them. They accordingly sentenced the 25 to be blown away from Guns, and if any of those who have deserted should ever be taken they are included in the sentence of the Court Martial. I had 8 of the above 25 blown off directly upon the spot, and sent 5 to Monier to be put to death there, 6 to Bankipore, and 6 to Bigampore, and yesterday morning the last of them were blown away from the Guns. I have broke the Battalions with all the ignominy possible, and have incorporated them into the five youngest Battalions now with the Army, took away their colours as not deserving to carry any, and told them if they chose it they were at liberty that instant to lay down their arms, and be dismissed the service, for if they did not like to serve the Hon'ble Company on the present terms, they never needed expect any other, and might go to Shuja-Dowla, or the D——— for any thing I cared. Upon this speech being made to them, they seemed very penitent indeed, and declared they would evermore serve the Company very faithfully.

789.—*Ears and noses to be cut off for giving in false accounts.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, 27TH AUGUST.]

Immediately after the above agreement* Captain Dow published an order by beat of drum that all black servants depending on the English, should deliver to him a just and true account of the losses sustained by them in the districts of Rungpore during the late troubles, and that if any person should give a false account, he would not only prevent their getting restitution, but have their ears and noses cut off, and he also desired the Foujdar would take particular care that they committed no frauds.

790.—*The Nawab's arrival in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, SEPTEMBER 4.]

The Nawab having arrived in Calcutta yesterday, and been received with all the usual ceremonies and respects, we have appointed with his approbation to wait on him tomorrow morning in order to discourse on the points of our business. It is agreed therefore that the whole Board shall go to his House, and that a representation of our demands shall be opened to him.

* With the Faujdar of Rungpur respecting Factories and Servants belonging to Governor Vansittart that had been plundered.

791.—*Government police to spare the people in war.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, NOVEMBER 6.]

The Governor to Major Munro, Commander-in-Chief.

It has always been the rule of our conduct to conciliate the affections of the people in the countries where we have made war, and prevent to the utmost of our power all manner of plunder and destruction. This we must recommend to your strict observance, and think it the rather necessary on this occasion, as the City of Benares being reputed a place of great wealth, may be a temptation to the Sepoys, and it would give us a particular concern was any mischief committed in a place which is so much respected for its antiquity, and held sacred in the eyes of the whole Country.

792.—*Attack on Santipore Factory.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, NOVEMBER 12.]

The Export Ware-house keeper lays before the Board the following letter of complaint from the Company's Gomastahs at Santipore.

Santipore, 6th November 1764.

Your favor of the 25th ultimo we have received yesterday. Ramchunder Shan, the son of Kissenchunder Shan, arrived in this Aurung with two or three hundred Horsemen, Sepoys, and Peons, about 50 persons entered our Factory, and insisted on our going with them to Ram Chunder Shan; and finding that we refused to go, they forcibly took away Marhore Buttacharjee our Gomastah who provides cotton yarn for the Company, whereby the Company's business is stopped, therefore as we cannot perceive their design of the present disorder, we despatch Neidiram Muckerjiah, and Gopaul Buttacharjee to inform you of the particulars and hope you will take notice of the same.

793.—*An Interpreter for Major Munro.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 6.]

Major Munro being entirely unacquainted with the Country language, and it appearing that he may be much in want of the assistance of a person well versed therein. Agreed that Mr. George Vansittart do proceed with all expedition and attend him in the capacity of Interpreter.

794.—*The Mahrattas in Midnapore.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 17.]

The President informs the Board that he has received advices from Mr. Watts at Midnapore and from the Resident at Ballasore of sundry motions of the Mahrattas who have collected together a large Force which seem to indicate a design in them to give us some disturbance in the Midnapore Province, and as any irruption from them must prove very detrimental to our collections there, as well as in the Burdwan Province, it behoves us to endeavour to avert their design, if such it should be, and it is for that purpose agreed that a detachment of the Europeans now in Garrison with 500 Sepoys and 2 Pieces of Cannon shall march immediately into Midnapore under the Command of Major Champion who is now in Calcutta.

795.—*Failure of attack on Chunar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 17.]

Received just now the following letter from the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

GENTLEMEN,—I did myself the favor of acquainting from time to time, the Governor with what passed since the detachment under the Command of Major Pemble went to besiege Chunargur, a practicable breach was made in one of the curtains, the morn of the 2nd instant, and by dawn of day the 3rd, the Breach was ordered to be stormed, when by the bad behaviour of the Sepoys, who would not advance, but kept a close fire into the Breach, so that the Europeans could not get forward, occasioned the assault miscarrying. Major Pemble acquainted me with this, and desired I would send him the Grenadier Company in order to try to storm a second time, the evening of the same day. They were completed to 50 Rank and File besides some Volunteers who joined them and were sent over to the Fort, a disposition being made for the second attempt, 30 volunteers turned out of the Pioneer Company, and from the rest of the Europeans, who begged to lead the van, to which Major Pemble agreed, and at 2 o'clock of the morning of the 4th the Troops moved up the Hill to storm the Breach, but I am sorry to inform you the Volunteers were struck with such a panic that they ran back, after being at the Breach, upon the Grenadier Company, and they upon the

rest who were to support, so that all gave way and were seized with such a panic that the Officers could not get them to rally tho' the fire from the Fort was not very heavy, nor did those within throw down near the quantity of stones which they did the day before. All the Officers behaved nobly, they offered to go on the forlorn hope, and storm, but as there was reason to believe from the former backwardness of the Troops they would not support them, Major Pemble rejected the offer.

796.—*Major Carnac on Civilians ruling officers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER 31.]

Major Carnac delivers in his sentiments in the following Minute :— Major Carnac is sorry to observe he is single in the opinion of the impropriety of putting Major Champion under the orders of the Chief of Midnapore, and he has so much respect for the present President and Council that it is with regret he enters a dissent against their resolution on this point, which he would not have done but that he looks upon it to have dangerous tendency, and that it may be productive of the worst of consequences. When a party is employed merely for forwarding the collections, it may be right to give the Chief the direction of it, as it more properly bolongs to him to know how these collections can best be forwarded, and no material injury can arise from his having the guidance of the small number of men sufficient for that purpose. But when an Officer is sent with a detachment for the defence of a province, and it is expected he will have an enemy to engage with, the good of the service requires his being as little restrained in his power as possible, and it is the Major's opinion he should be under no controul whatever but that of the President, the Board and the Commander-in-Chief. He, if worthy of the command, must undoubtedly be a better judge how to conduct the operations than Civilians in general can be supposed, and it may be alleged as a further motive why the Officer should have the Command preferably to the Civilian, that the former in case of misconduct has much more at risk than the latter. The Civilian can only be dismissed, whereas the Officer has moreover his honor, and, in many cases, may have his life at stake.

(Sd.) JOHN CARNAC.

797.—*Sipahis oppressing Ryots.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 2.]

Representations of the Nabob delivered to Major Adams to be laid before the Board.

1*st.*—As there are Factories of the English Company at Cossimbazar, Dacca, Patna and other places, and Chiefs and Councillors are there, whatever dustucks there may be for Trade, let them be established under the seal of the English Company, and let them not interfere nor grant recommendations in the affairs of the revenues and the Country, as it is a means of weakening the authority of my Officers.

2*nd.*—Sepoys and Hircaras in the name of the English Company go into the Country and oppress the Ryots. If they are sent into the Country for the Company's business let them have with them a Certificate under the seal of the English Councillors, and if they go into the Country without a Certificate and make disturbance let them be punished.

3*rd.*—Let not the English Gomastahs take possession of and set up their authority in any of the Zemindaries or milky* lands, lands granted by the King rent-free or for a very trifling consideration, nor receive money for protection (called Meraim) nor hold any Farms, and whoever has taken possession of any lands, let him relinquish them and let not protection be granted to the dependants of the Sircar.

4*th.*—Let there be dustucks under the Company's seal with Boats loaded with silver and goods, and let them pass and repass giving copies to the chokeydars according to custom.

5*th.*—Whatever agreement has been made between the Company and me with regard to money, as none of Meer Cossim's effects have fallen into my hands and the expenses of the regulations with the King as well as the expenses of the Company, &c., depend upon the revenue of this desolated country, therefore, the stipulated sum shall be paid in three years' time.

6*th.*—Whereas the Chief of Chittagong has taken into his hands and established his authority in the Chuckla of Tipperah and Sundeep and other districts belonging to Dacca, let him relinquish them that

* Málik.

I may without trouble receive the revenues of the said districts and apply the sums collected together to the payment of my debts, and whatever money may have been collected from the said districts to the time of relinquishing them, let it be reckoned into the Company's account.

7th.—With regard to the Gomastahs of the English Company who are in different parts of the Country, excepting for the business of the English Company and Councillors, let them not for their own affairs and concerns send Sepoys upon the Ryots, nor oppress them, nor force them to purchase their goods, and if any dispute should arise, let them make it known to the Officer of the Sircar and have it settled by him.

798.—*Tipura and Chittagong.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 16.]

On the 14th instant we received a letter from Dacca, dated the 10th enclosing to us Mahomed Raza Khan's receipt for the Tippera Province and advising us that Lieutenant Dow was returned with the Detachment from Rungpoor. That having brought with him the late Phousdar Abid Ally Khan, they desired to know what they are to do with him. That the Baboopore Jemadar refuses to acknowledge the present Government, and acts as one independent of it. And as his example may be of bad consequence in the Country they desired our permission to order Captain Grant to drive out, and if possible seize this man in his march to Chittagong.

799.—*The Marines recalled from Burdwan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 19.]

The President acquainting the Board that as the time draws near for the departure of the Squadron to the Coast, he has, at Commodore Tinker's request, recalled the Marines from Burdwan in order to embark, and with them the Company's Artillery.*

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* There were barracks in Burdwan, which at this time was a frontier station against the Maharattas.

800.—*European Troops threaten mutiny.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY 13.]

Received a letter from Captain Jennings acquainting us that the European Troops having heard of Major Adams' death and that some disputes had arisen in Calcutta in regard to the Nabob's donation, had conceived an idle notion that they should lose part of their shares, which occasioned their standing to arms and demanding the money, threatening to march to the Nabob and demand it of him. That he endeavored to bring them to reason by representing the impossibility of their gaining their point by such a violent manner of proceeding, and assuring them that the first payment would be shortly made at Calcutta, and that as soon as their shares arrived at Camp they should be immediately delivered out. That after talking some time to them the men appeared pretty well satisfied, lodged their arms and repaired to their Tents, and that yesterday in order to try how far he could depend upon them he gave orders for a Field day, when to his great satisfaction, they behaved extremely well, but that as he cannot answer for their future conduct, he thinks it absolutely necessary that the agents should send up the money with all expedition.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY 23.]

Captain Jennings writes February the 12th, from camp at Sut near Caramnassa. I am extremely sorry to inform you that notwithstanding all endeavours to keep the Troops in due bounds, yesterday morning the European Battalion forced the Drummers to beat the General without apprising any of their Officers and stood to their arms, appointing themselves a leader. After loading their Pieces and fixing their Bayonets they took possession of the Artillery Parks, forcing the Lascars and some Gunners to draw out six Guns, placing three on each flank, the European Horse formed on the right, and the Moguls on the left, the sepoys were likewise in station, but by a timely admonition they desisted, all endeavours were used to pacify the Europeans, but in vain, in this order they proceeded through the Nabob's Camp, crossed a Nulla and directed their march towards the Caramnassa. When I found they were not to be stopped at any rate, I sent Captain Stables to apprise the Nabob who came and met them on their march, offered a lac of rupees, one half to be paid immediately and the remainder at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, which was all he could produce in camp, but neither promises or threats could stop them; for want of draught Bullocks, the cannons were lost on the road to and in the Nabob's camp, which I returned back to camp again.

I followed them in Company with many of the Battalion Officers endeavouring to persuade them to march back to Camp, and receive the money the Nabob had sent, about a hundred dropped them on the march and returned, on their arrival at the Caramnassa they drew up on the Parade in the front of the Guns belonging to the detachment and immediately secured them. In the mean time the Mogul horse

dispersed themselves amongst the Sepoys of the detachment to influence them to join. Here I got them to halt to take a Dram and Biscuit; while the Drams were served we prevailed on most of the English, &c., to return, but the French and most of the Foreigners persisted in crossing the Caramnassa, to the amount of about three hundred and proceeded towards Benares, at the same time, by the influence of the Mogul Horse, part of two Battalions of Sepoys of the Caramnassa Detachment rushed to fix their Bayonets and followed them across the River. Growing towards the evening I took the remainder of the Europeans with the Guns to the grand camp, leaving some Officers to assist the Sepoy Officers, to-day we have got many of the Sepoys to return with some of the Europeans, and I expect most of the Sepoys, with about 70 Europeans will return this evening, on condition of being pardoned; there is a body of Frenchmen, about one hundred and fifty, headed by Serjeant Delamar, and two other French Serjeants that have halted on the banks of the Ganges opposite Benares, but can't cross for want of Boats. I have very little hopes of this party's returning for it appears to have been a premeditated scheme of the French in particular to entice the best part of this Army over to the enemy, under the pretence of donation money; at the same time they were determined to refuse all offers of Cash whatever.

This morning I ordered part of the donation to be paid from the lac which the Nabob sent; the Europeans received forty rupees per man and the Sepoys six rupees each, the Non-Commissioned Officers in proportion; this appears to have satisfied them, and I believe most of the Europeans that have returned are ashamed of their proceedings, being convinced of the bad intention of their leaders (the French) to draw them into a crime which they never intended.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, FEBRUARY 27.]

Captain Jennings writes the 15th instant:—The Sepoys in Camp having heard of the revolt of those at the Caramnassa refused to take the Rs. 6 per man offered them and immediately stood to their arms, whereupon the greatest confusion ensued, as the Europeans being ashamed of their former behaviour insisted on forcing the Sepoys back, and accordingly stood likewise to their arms, and the artillery to their guns. That not being able to prevent this he ordered the Battalion to form on the Parade, load and fix their bayonets, but upon no pretence to use violence without they were attacked. That finding nothing else would get them, he has judged it for the good of the service that the Sepoys' demand for being paid half the share per man which the Europeans had received, should be complied with, and that the havildars have accordingly received each Rs. 40, the naiks 30 and the Sepoys 20. That they appear all pretty well satisfied at present and that he shall use his utmost endeavours with the assistance of the other officers to promote quiet and harmony among them.*

* The Government advised employing the troops in the attack of Rotas or any other service, to keep them from idleness, to canton them at Sasseram, Patna, and Monghyr, and that the Sepahi battalions amount to only 500 men; the army continued on until March in a state of discontent.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, MARCH 26.]

Major Carnac writes, when making a dividend of the prize money, that one Company made a little stir upon the occasion, but that it ended with his punishing two or three Sepoys, who were principally concerned, and turning them out of the service. That the Officers from a conviction the men will never be in right temper so long as any part of the donation remains due to them, have agreed not to receive their proportions till the soldiers have had their entire shares. That after the desertion of so many Frenchmen he could entertain no favourable opinion of the few who stayed behind, and could not avoid being suspicious. They did so with some ill-view, and that he has therefore ordered Captain Martin with the remainder of his Company down to Calcutta.

801.—*Allowances to the Resident at Murshidabad.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, APRIL 3.]

That Sicca Rupees 1,000 be allowed for the expenses of his Table and private Servants, whether on the march with the Nabob or attending him at a fixed residence.

Public Servants as follows:—

1	Vakeel,	20	Peons,
2	Moonshees,	10	Mussalchees,
4	Chobdars,	12	Bearers,
2	Jemadars,	2	Chowry Bearers,

and such a number of Frosts (Ferashis) and Lascars as he may have occasion for removing his Tents.

802.—*Shuja ul Daulah's protest against the English.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, APRIL 26.]

Since you have turned out and established Nawabs at pleasure without the consent of the Imperial Court; since you have imprisoned dependents of the Court and exposed the Government of the King of Kings to contempt and dishonor; since you have ruined the trade of the Merchants of the Country, granted protection to the King's servants, injured the Revenues of the Imperial Court, and crushed the inhabitants by your acts of violence and oppression, and since you are continually sending fresh people from Calcutta and invading different parts of the Royal dominions, and have even plundered several villages and pergunnas belonging to the province of Allahabad, to what can all

these your proceedings be attributed but to an absolute disregard for the Court and wicked design of seizing the Country for yourselves.* If you are naughty and disobedient, (which God forbid), the heads of the disturbers shall be devoured by the swords of justice, and you will feel the weight of his Majesty's displeasure, which is the type of the wrath of God.

803.—*English Agents beating Natives.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, APRIL 30.]

Mr. Middleton writes to the Governor:—When your Honor, &c., appointed a Covenanted Servant to reside at Rungpoor I do not conceive it was your intention that he should inflict corporal punishment on any Gomastahs, Pikars, or servants belonging to the English, but rather act as mediator between them and the Government, and prevent oppressions on either side. Instead of which (if credit may be given to Mr. Ivie's representation of this matter, hereunto annexed) Mr. Jekyll has used most violent and unwarrantable measures by seizing a Pikar of Mr. Ivie's (who is considerably indebted to me) and publicly chastising him. Many complaints of this kind are to my knowledge come down against Mr. Jekyll, and which I believe will be laid before your Honor.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, MAY 3.]

The Board state:—Shall there then be no Government restraint upon those excesses which either ignorance, passion or self-interest may lead an English Agent to commit in the Country. This is really the case at present, and although it is very certain that some of the gentlemen employed are of unexceptionable character, and whose good behaviour might be depended on, yet many there are of a contrary disposition. But there need not many arguments to prove that both the good and the bad should be under some law, yet if we examine the case of the English Agents up the Country, we shall find they are under none. Our charter does not authorize our Courts to take cognizance of any crimes they might commit in these parts, and it has been laid down as a fundamental principle that the Country Government shall have no power of them.

We need not look further for the root of that licentiousness which has produced such innumerable complaints from the Country Government and the inhabitants in those parts where European Agents have been sent. It can now no longer be doubted that many of these complaints have been well grounded, particularly in the article of selling goods by force for more than the current market price, a practice called in this Country Barja or Guchaout.

* The English replied to this, showing that the Emperor of Delhi was a mere tool in the hands of Shuja ul Daula.

All the power we can give the Chiefs of our Factories over these Agents will be very insufficient to remedy this disorder since we have in reality none ourselves, and therefore disagreeable as it is to deprive so many of our nation of the benefits they now receive by being employed as Agents in the Country, yet it seems an unavoidable necessity, and for the sake of the public tranquillity and welfare must be adopted, and the trade carried on for the future by black Gomastahs, who may be tried and punished by our Court of Zemindary if they commit any excesses or acts of injustice, and that power delegated as far as shall appear necessary to the Chiefs of the subordinate Factories.

It is, therefore, the opinion of the Board and resolved that all the Europeans, Portuguese, Natives and Armenian Agents which are now up the country shall have notice given them to settle their concerns, so as to return to Calcutta by the 30th of November next, and that after that time no European shall be permitted to go up the Country under any pretence whatsoever, or any other Agents be employed in our trade but Bengal Natives.*

With respect to the practice of carrying on the Inland Trade by force (called Barja or Guchaout) it is a practice which we entirely disapprove, and in order to put a stop to it as soon as possible, it is agreed to send directions to Dacca, Rungpore and Malda to forbid it in the districts under their Factories, but to do it with such care and direction as not to affect the Company's investment, as we do not mean to invalidate the right devised to the Company from their Firman always held over their own weavers.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, MAY 7.]

Translation of a Petition from the Vakeel of the Zemindar of Buzzoorgamedpoor.

The Pergunnah of Buzzoorgamedpoor, &c., is the Zemindary of my Master. By reason of the oppressions of the Factories of the Company and many other English Traders, of whom underneath is a list, all the inhabitants are fled; the people of the Factories take from the Merchants what they please at half price; cut down Bamboos and Trees belonging to the inhabitants, and take them away by force; if any one complain they punish him for it. They press the inhabitants and carry them in the woods of Soonderbun, paying them only half their wages. They take possession of land in the Soonderbun and make Tafalls of Salt for which they pay no rent. They seize the Salt of the Tafalls of the Pergunnah and of the inhabitants. They force the inhabitants to take Tobacco, Salt and other articles, and refuse to pay the legal duties on the trade which they carry on. If we demand a sight of the Company's Dustuck they beat us with Bamboos. Some of them pretend that they have been robbed, and insist on our making restitution, placing peons upon us, and putting us to a good expence.

* Two Members of Council dissented from this proposition, on the ground that Native Gomastahs were very bad and could not resist the tyranny and arbitrary power of the Native Government.

They judge causes, impose and exact fines. They send peons and seize the Naib of the Pergunnah, taking for Tullubanna (Peon's Fees) one rupee every day. They grant Guards to many of the Talookdars and Mahajuns in the Country, by which means we are prevented from collecting the King's revenues, and many inhabitants take shelter in the Factories and thereby avoid paying the rents. There is little Chunam made within the distance of four days' journey from hence, the whole quantity made within the Pergunnah not exceeding 2,000 Maunds. Notwithstanding Mr. Dobbins has established two Factories within my Purgunnah, committing every species of injury and oppression, and violating the women of the inhabitants, and erecting Factories in places where none ever were before, drives away the inhabitants, and upon the information of many people he takes upon him to recover debts of 5 and 10 years' standing.

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, MAY 17.]

Extract of a letter from the Rungpore Pycars Sheik Etbarry and Sheik Kabil Mahmud, dated the 30th Phalgoon.

Though we are indebted to you (I. H. and Bd.) on the balances of the last as well as the advances for the Opium contracts of the present year, yet a Pyke from Mr. Jekyll with a Perwannah is continually coming to our houses to force us to give contracts for Opium, on which account we are obliged to quit our houses and hide ourselves to the prejudice of our business. Chaund Khan has been confined two days at Ship Gunge and he is told he must by force be made to receive Dadny, we cannot serve two masters.

804.—*Dullul Sing's description.**

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, 4TH JUNE.]

Dullal Sing has a wheat complexion, a high forehead, large eyebrows, sheep eyes, a long nose, grizzled beard and whiskers, is a little pitted with small pox, has his ears bored, and looks about 42 years old.

805.—*The Government to Major Carnac.*†

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, 5TH JULY.]

We shall now point out the instances of your disrespect to us, and this cannot be better done than by plain quotations from your

* Dullul Sing a Patna Zemindar farmed out lands on a three years' lease to Mr. Cantopher, the above is a personal description of him by Mr. Cantopher.

† The Government afterwards acknowledged Major Carnac was right in not marching against the enemy with a sickly camp and mutinous soldiers.

letter. You say that the order we have thought proper to give seems "to you big with mischief, and that the evils that may ensue must rest upon ourselves." We believe it will be hard to produce an instance from any record of any Officer's writing to those under whose orders he must act that their orders were big with mischief. We know well that we are answerable for the orders we give, but it is not your business to tell us so. You have nothing to do but to obey them to the utmost of your power.

806.—*Major Munro's ignorance of the language and people.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JULY 5.]

As Major Munro is entirely unacquainted with the language of this Country, as well as the manners and customs of the people, it is thought necessary that one of the Members of the Board shall accompany him in the Field.

Agreed therefore that Mr. Marriott be appointed, and that it be recommended to the Major in his instructions to be guided by that Gentleman in all his intercourse with the Country Powers and the Officers of the Government. It being likewise thought proper that a Gentleman in the service should accompany the Commander-in-Chief in the capacity of Secretary.

807.—*The Mahrattas in Cuttack.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SECRET DEPARTMENT, JULY 5.]

The Resident at Cuttack John Lowe writes.—The Nabob of this place last night sent for the Moonshee here, and ordered him to acquaint me that he has received certain advice that Janongee has sent a body of 5,000 men in order to recover some part of the Burdwan country, and about Midnapore. Shubut the former Nabob here having sent Janongee the King of Delhi's Perwannah for those parts, which he obtained when at Delhi, and it is thought sent it to Janongee in hopes of being reinstated.

From Chumna Son,—the Mahratta Chief at Cuttack.

Some time ago Shubut having procured from the Imperial Court His Majesty's Firman appointing the Nizamut of the province of Orissa together with Midnapore to Maharaja Janonjee Bhonsla forwarded it

to the Maharaja and requested some Troops to enable him to settle those districts. Accordingly the Maharaja has now sent a body of 5,000 Horse under the Command of Azim Khan Bhonsla and Bowany Pundit and Nurrogee Jachuc and other Chiefs. They are arrived near Jaunty and will shortly reach Cuttack, and they are ordered to quarter in those districts.

808.—*The Zemindar of Bettia.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 36.]

To Jogul Kisvur, Zemindar of Bettia, from the Governor, 24th July 1765.

In the time of Meer Cossim you used to pay into the Treasury six or seven Lacs of Rupees out of the revenues of your Zemindary, and I am informed that at present you pay nothing but a few Timbers. I therefore write to you that you must send without delay the balances which you owe the Sircar, and give security for the regular payment of your revenues in future. If (which God forbid) you neglect this advice, an English Army will march against you after the rains, and settle your business.

809.—*Oppression by a Gomastah.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 38.]

To Mahomed Reza Khan from the Governor, 7th September 1765.

One Kauly Pershaud, Gomastah of Saunteram Sing, Daroga of Bossnagaut belonging to the Pergunnah of Benoudpoor in the Zemindary of Luckynarain, has audaciously detained some loaded boats for three months, on pretence of taking duty from them, notwithstanding the Dustuck of the Company was shewn him; and has used ill the men belonging to them. In this case Mr. Sumner, unwilling to occasion a disturbance by sending Sepoys, sent a man with a Dustuck to fetch him. He according to his wicked disposition made no account of this man, nor paid any attention to the Dustuck, and did not set the boats at liberty.

810.—*Europeans in the Country.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 46.]

To Mahomed Reza Khan from the Governor, 8th October 1765.

I have received your letter complaining of the interruption given to the Government's business by the dependants of the Factories of Dacca and Luckypore lending

money to the Zemindars and renting lands. And in consequence thereof letters from the Committee have been written to the Commanding Officers of the Army and all the subordinates totally prohibiting them and all the Officers of the Army and all the Gentlemen of the Factories and their dependants from interfering in any measure with the affairs of the Government in future; and positive injunctions have been given that none of the Company's servants belonging to the Factories, their Agents, Banians or dependants lend money to the Zemindars on security of lands by lease or mortgage or without the consent of you and the other Ministers, nor interfere in the appointments to public employments nor otherwise maintain any intercourse or connections with the business of the Government, but confine themselves strictly to the Company's trade and their own, on pain of immediate suspension. As the 21st of this month is the time appointed for all the English who are not employed in the Company's service to return to Calcutta, orders have been given to the Chiefs of the subordinates to oblige all such to repair thither within that time, and to acquaint them that they will be otherwise left entirely to the power of the Country Government.

Enclosed I send for your information a list of Company's Servants at the different Factories. Whatever other Englishmen are dispersed about the Country have received orders to repair to Calcutta by the 21st of this month. If they disobey those orders you may then take what measures you think proper to send them down. Enclosed I send you a list of some of them, but there are many others whose names I am unacquainted with. These regulations being established I make no doubt but with Mr. Sykes' assistance you will be able to carry on the business of the Government in a proper manner and without interruption.

LIST OF COMPANY'S SERVANTS AT SEVERAL FACTORIES.

	At Patna.	
Mr. Samuel Meddleton	... ...	Chief.
Mr. Francis Hare ...	... ...	Councillors of the Factory.
Mr. John Wood ...	... ...	
Mr. Dacres ...	... ...	
Mr. George Hurst ...	... ...	Assistants.
Mr. Simeon Droze ...	... ...	
	At Cossimbazar.	
Mr. A. W. Senior ...	... ...	Chief.
Mr. Joseph Jekyll ...	... ...	Councillors.
Mr. George Williamson	... ...	
Mr. Thoms Forbes ...	... ...	Assistants.
Mr. G. B. Wright ...	... ...	
Mr. Charles Goring	... ...	
Mr. A. Vanuxdell ...	... ...	
	At Dacca.	
Mr. Cartier ...	... ...	Chief.
Mr. Francis Charlton	... ...	Councillors.
Mr. William Shewen	... ...	
Mr. James Harris ...	... ...	
Mr. Francis Law ...	... ...	Assistants.
Mr. John Sumner ...	... ...	

At Malda.

Mr. Richard Barwell ... ... Chief.
Mr. Barton ... ... Assistant.

At Hurreall.

Mr. Nat. Bateman.

At Budaul.

Mr. Nicholas Gruber.

At Keerpoy and Hurrypaul.

Mr. Thomas Hewit.

A list of Free Merchants at Patna :—

Mr. Bryan Scotney.
„ Joseph Hare in Calcutta.
„ Alexander Jephson.
„ William Hutchinson.
„ John Hutchinson in Calcutta.
„ George Lear.
„ George Barrow.
„ Peter Hare at Beggie.

811.—*The Fort of Chunar.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 51.]

To Raja Bulwund Sing from the Governor, 31st October 1765.

By a letter from Mr. Marriott I am informed that you have been making application to him that the Fort of Chunar may be delivered into your hands. Knowing as you do the Treaty subsisting between Shuja-ul Dowla and us, I am surprised at your entertaining such a thought. Were we thus to violate our engagements with Shuja-ul Dowla, what reliance could be placed upon us, or how could you be assured of our adherence to our engagements with you? I desire that in future you will not think of making any proposal so contrary to our honor; at the same time set your mind perfectly at ease in full assurance that we shall pay an equal regard to our engagements with you, and support and protect you on every just occasion.

812.—*The Sets' avarice.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 52.]

To the Sets from the Governor, 24th November.

You are not ignorant what attention and support I always showed to your father, and how cordially I have continued it to you and the remainder of the family. Reflect only upon the manner in which I

received you and how constantly I have given you proofs of my regard, It cannot, therefore, but be matter of great concern to me to learn that you do not consider seriously what part you ought to act to establish your own credit and the public interest. Instead of keeping up to the original intention and necessity of having the Treasury under 3 separate keys, I find all the money has been lodged with your family in your house, and that you have been consenting at least to the farming of the Bengal Province under the rents I am assured it will bear. I am informed also that you have been pressing the Zemindars to discharge their debts to your fathers at a time when they are 5 months in arrear to the Government. This is a step I can by no means approve of or allow. You are still a very rich House, but I greatly fear that tendency you seem to have to avarice will not only turn greatly to your disadvantage, but at the same time destroy that opinion I had of your inclination and disposition to promote the public good.

813.—*Chunar Fort.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 37.]

From Major Fletcher, to the Killadar of Chunargur, 22nd January.

The English Army having marched from Benares, had a meeting with Shuja-ul Dowla and the other chiefs near Jelaulpore, who being unable to oppose our arms fled towards Oude. We pursued them to Jounpore and took possession of the Fort, and part of their baggage fell into our hands. Part of the English Troops will now proceed to Chinargur. I therefore write to you to deliver up the Fort to them. In this case His Majesty's favour and the Company's will be with you, otherwise the Fort will be taken by force, and you and your people will be put to the sword.

814.—*Fort of Allahabad.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 42.]

From Major Fletcher, to Gholam Hossein Khan, the Killadar of Allahabad, 27th January.

You must before now have heard of Shuja-ul Dowla's defeat at Jelaulpore, and of our having got possession of the Fort of Jounpoor. I am now fighting in His Majesty's service and I command you in his

name to deliver up the Fort of Allahabad. In case of your compliance His Majesty's favours will be with you, but if you refuse to act in obedience to him I shall make an attack upon the fort, and by the blessing of God shall speedily get possession of it, and in such case you may be assured that you and your people will fall into the hands of the soldiers and will according to custom be put to the sword.

815.—*Mogul Horse.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 46.]

From Major Fletcher, to Futteh Aly Cawn, 1st February.

I have received your letter from the hands of Mahomed Jahr Beg. If you are desirous of entering into the service of the English Company, you shall be entertained with a thousand good Moguls furnished with good horses, but a greater number cannot be admitted into the service. Do not be under any uneasiness, but come and join me without fear.

816.—*The Zemindars of Ghazeepore.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 54.]

From Rajah Bulwaund Sing, to Major Fletcher.

Concerning the riotous proceedings of the Zemindars of Ghazeepore, I wrote you before how they entered into an agreement together, and have proceeded to such lengths as to stop the public roads, and that until a body of Troops shall be despatched for that purpose no regulation can be made. In all the parts around Benares the Country is ruined; and Curwara, &c., places about Jounpoor, have been taken possession of by a set of seditious rabble. In conformity to the orders of the enemy all the deserters raised a disturbance.

817.—*Reza Khan.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 65.]

From Mahomed Reza Khan, Bahadoor, to the Governor, March 6.

To-day, Sunday, the 10th of Ramzan His Excellency the Nabob Nujum-ul Dowla Bahadre sat on the Musnud in a fortunate hour and to the Gentlemen of Council and the Nabobs Syef-ul Dowla Br.

and Mabarck-ul Dowla Br. and the friends of the deceased Nabob, His Excellency presented khilluts, and he was pleased to honor me by conferring on me the Neabut of the Souba of Bengal, &c., and by presenting me with a rich Khillut and Serpaich and Jega set with Jewels, and an elephant and sword, together with the title of Muir-ul Dowla Nuzzuffer Jung Bdr. As under God you, Sir, are the author of this my fortune; if my whole body were composed of tongues I should be unable to express the smallest degree of my gratitude.* May God ever preserve you with your gracious and bountiful disposition, and may I remain ready in the manifestation of my respect and attachment.

818.—*Rughonauth Mitter.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 84.]

From the Nabob to the Governor, 27th March.

Rughonauth Mitter has of old shewn a firm and hearty obedience to me. I am at present informed that his son Radhachurn Mitter has been condemned to punishment by the decree of the Grand Jury, on account of a present of Rs. 6,000 from Coja Solyman of Constantinople. In consideration of Rughonauth Mitter's ancient attachment to my father and me, I beg that you will sincerely favour me in this matter; and even supposing that Radhachurn through his youth and ignorance has been guilty of a fault, that you will nevertheless in compliance with my desire use your utmost endeavours, that the Gentlemen of Council may forgive him and deliver him into my hands. This will be conferring a great obligation upon me.

819.—*Jugat Set's sons.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT NO. 90.]

To Lord Clive, from Set Oodweichund and Set Coshaulchund,—Received 10th May 1765.

What shall we say or write or how sufficiently complain of our distressed situation? The tyrant Meer Cossim causelessly called our fathers from hence in the most disgraceful manner, treated them with

* Mahomed Urza Khan used a similar complimentary expression "Ten times a day do I employ myself in supplications for the prolongation of the shadow of your friendship and for the perpetuity of your life."

such violence and oppression as perhaps never before happened to any one even in a dream or in imagination, and unjustly put them to death. All the effects they had with them he plundered, and our younger brothers Sut Golaub Chund and Baboo Mehirchund he carried with him, delivered them into the hands of the Muttasadies of the Imperial Court in lieu of a very large sum of money. For a long time they were kept prisoners and used with the greatest severity, and at length a very large sum was extorted from them which they were obliged partly to borrow and partly to raise by pawning jewels, and they were then released. Part of this money we have paid off by coining or selling our household utensils and jewels, and we are now distressed and embarrassed to find out means for discharging the rest.

820.—*A Nuzzer to Clive.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 91.]

Money for a congratulatory Nuzzer, 5 *Gold Mohurs, from Rajah Doolabram Br.,—Received* 12*th March* 1765.

God be thanked who in compliance with our constant prayers has rejoiced the people by the happy news of your arrival and gladdened my heart in particular, for in like manner as the parched field is refreshed by the blessing of rain, such relief has this news afforded to my anxious mind. Thus does the budding flower after despairing survive the hard weather, recover its beauty and fragrance by the sweet breeze of spring. May God render your arrival happy and auspicious to all your faithful adherents, and release them from the pain of absence by granting a speedy interview with you.*

821.—*Purnea disturbances.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 146.]

From Mahomed Reza Khan,—Received 2nd October 1765.

I have sent you enclosed two Arzies which are just arrived with me from the Officers of Poornea, wherein they advise of the riotous insurrection of a large body of Mountaineers and of their being bent on some

* Nuzzers with congratulatory letters were also presented to Lord Clive on his arrival from Raja Kissenchand of Nuddea; from the Nawab, who regarded Clive "as his brother, the strength of his arm;" from Raja Tillokchand of Burdwan, and Mahomed Reza Khan: as well as from Biby Shah Causim, "as I here called you my son so you are to be considered as brother to my son Saduc Ali Cawn deceased."

evil design, and that the Ryots on the frontier are much alarmed: I have also been informed at Oodwa that the Mountaineers there too having insolently dared to block up the King's highway do stretch out their hands to molest and oppress travellers and others.* When I was in your presence I represented to your Lordship that as the Troops stationed at Rajmehal, &c., were lessened in number it would be necessary for a Battalion of Sepoys to be sent so as to arrive here soon. I will despatch two Companies to Poornea and the same number to Rajmehal and to Beerbhoom and other Frontier Thannahs, whatsoever number may be requisite for their defence.

822.—*The Zemindars and the Factory.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 148.]

From Mahomed Reza Khan,—Received 4th October 1765.

There are many persons with the pretence of debts being due to them making use of the name of the Factory, disturb the Zemindars and districts of the Chuckla of Jehangheer Nuzzur, and sending peons to seize people and abstract the revenues of the Sircar. The particulars are very long, but I briefly mentioned the matter to you at Mootagul. Moreover several evasive Zemindars and Talookdars borrow more or less from the dependents of the Factory, and when their rents are demanded from them, go and shelter themselves under their protection so as to be out of the power of the Amils. With the pretence of debts being due from them they carry their creditors into their districts and collect the revenues, so that the money of the Sircar remains unpaid, and spreading about reports that number of villages are rented to the dependents of the Factory, they practice villainous tricks. I accordingly receive from the Amils frequent complaints of these proceedings. As I do not conceive that the interruptions of the Revenue of the Sircar can be put a stop to without removing these pretences, I hope you will be kind enough to write to the Gentlemen of the Factories of Jehangeer Nuzzur and Luckypoor, &c., that none of the dependents of the Factory must lend money to the Zemindars, &c., without the knowledge of the Amil, nor hold any farms, nor interfere in the affairs of the Country, nor send any people into the districts and make a disturbance, and that whatsoever demands they have upon the Zemindars they must lay the account thereof before Jessarut Khan, the Naib at Jehangeer Nuzzur, that he may oblige the Zemindars to pay whatsoever is just.

* These were the Hill Tribes of Rajmehal, an account of whom will be found in the Appendix.

823.—*The Zemindar of Pachete.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 163.]

From Mahomed Reza Khan,—Received 6th November 1765.

I had the honor to receive your letter on the 15th of Jewadul Awul (31st October) wherein you write that Gopee Nauth Gomastah of Mr. Boulton agreeably to the Company's Dustuck was bringing to Calcutta 123 pieces of squared timber, the Zemindar of Pachete, not regarding the Dustuck, detained the timbers and made prisoner the Gomastah, demanding payment of duty on his present Cargo and on all that he had brought for two years past; that I should send an order for the release of the Gomastah and Timbers and give the Zemindar a sharp reproof, that in future he be not guilty of such an unbecoming behaviour. The Zemindar has for a long time been in a state of disobedience, and does not pay the Malguzzary to the Sircar, neither is there any Vakeel of his residing here. However, immediately upon the receipt of your letter I despatched some strict Collectors with orders to arrive there as expeditiously as possible and release the Gomastah and his Timbers.

824.—*Oppression by the Nawab's Troops.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 40.]

To Francis Sykes, Esq., from the Governor in Council.

SIR,—We highly approve of your application to the Nabob for disbanding his useless military rabble maintained at the extraordinary charge of 18 Lacs per annum, and relying for the support of his dignity and government on a body of our disciplined Sepoys.

Instead of weakening the authority and diminishing the influence it is necessary he should maintain in the eyes of his people, we apprehend this measure will conduce to render him still more respectable, as it affords the strongest evidence of the perfect cordiality subsisting between the Company and the Nawab and the entire union of their power and influence for the support of his Government. The great saving arising from the dismission of Troops that serve only to fleece and oppress the people, may be appropriated to purposes more essential than parade, to the Nabob's honor and interests, and we are rejoiced to find that His Excellency has adopted the same sentiments.

825.—*The Benares Factory people quarrelsome.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 63.]

To Randolph Marriot, Esq., Chief of Benares, or in his absence to Mr. Isaac Sage, entrusted with the care of the Factory,—Fort William, October 29.

SIR,—The Right Hon'ble the President having received complaints from Shuja Dowla that the gentlemen of the Factory give great interruption to his affairs by interfering with the business of the Government, you are hereby directed to confine yourself strictly to the collection of the Tuncaws, for which purpose alone your residence at Benares is continued; and by no means to meddle directly or indirectly with any affairs which are not immediately relative to your appointment.

826.—*Difficulty of supplying Members of Council.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 68.]

To the Hon'ble Robert Palk, Esq., President and Governor and Council at Fort St. George,—Fort William, November 5, *from the Governor in Council.*

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—The measures we are pursuing in order to acomplish the ends proposed by the Court of Directors and secure to the Company the great revenues they now possess in Bengal, are so contrary to the expectations, the views and interests of many of their servants placed in the highest stations, and entrusted with the most weighty employments of this Presidency, that they have thought proper to resign the service; the opulent fortunes they have acquired and the steps we are taking to prevent so sudden a growth of wealth at the expence of the Company, and the national character will sufficiently declare the motives of their conduct and of ours.

Notwithstanding we have found it expedient to reduce the number of the Board from 16 to 12 Members, yet three seats are already vacant, and Mr. Senior has expressed his full intention of returning home this season. It is with regret we observe that these vacancies cannot be filled by the Junior Servants next in succession. The corruption that prevailed in the Government has descended to the lower classes, and a

Council composed of these would frustrate every attempt to effect that general reformation so essential to the success and permanency of the measures proposed by our Constituents.*

827.—*The Armenians not to reside at Aurungs.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 74.]

To Francis Sykes, Esq., President at the Durbar and Chief of Cossimbazar.

SIR,—The many complaints received of the great interruption given to our investment by Armenians and their Agents residing at the several Aurungs, renders it necessary we take every possible measure to prevent their holding any intercourse with those places where we provide our investment, which may tend to the prejudice of the Company.

The Right Hon'ble the President has already sent orders to Mahomed Reza Khan to forbid their residence at the Aurungs, and we request that you will exert your influence to see these orders strictly executed.

828.—*Midnapur rebel Zemindars.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 77.]

To Sir Robert Parker, Colonel of the 3rd Brigade at Patna,—Fort William, 19th December.

SIR,—The President communicated to us a paragraph of your letter the 8th instant to his Lordship, and we agree with you in the necessity of immediately reducing to obedience the rebellious Zemindars. Narain Sing will probably return to his duty when his Forts are demolished, and indeed we think it advisable that you enter upon this business with all convenient expedition, paying the utmost regard to the safety of the Troops, whose lives are of more than usual importance on account of the condition of our military establishment.

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* Messrs. Russel, Aldersey, Kelsall and Floye, Madras Civilians were sent up greatly to the disgust of the Bengal Civilians. At this time Mahomed Reza Khan wrote a letter to Government pointing out how through gentle compulsion "the Nawab had to make presents to Mr. Johnstone, Resident at Burdwan to Mr. Leycester, Mr. Senior, Mr. Middleton amounting to Rs. 62,50,000." Mahomed Reza Khan himself had to give to the same parties, Rs. 4,76,000.

829.—*Surgeons' allowances.*

[PERSIAN DEPARTMENT, NO. 80.]

To Hugh Watts, Esq., Commissary General,—Fort William, 27th December.

SIR,—The Surgeons are in future to be allowed 18 rupees per mensem for each sick person lodged in the Hospitals, which allowance shall stand in lieu of all charges for coolies, carriage, black assistants, bazar medicines, &c., &c., and it is hereby understood that every expence shall be defrayed by the Surgeon, whether in Garrison or in the Field, the erecting Hospitals, providing Cloaths, furnishing Europe medicines and supplying diet excepted, for which last article they are to draw from the Soldiers' pay in the usual manner.

830.—*Corruption in Officers.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 30, PARAS. 3, 5—8.]

3. It is from a due sense of the regard we owe and profess to your interest and to our own honor, that we think it indispensably necessary to lay open to your view a series of transactions too notoriously known to be suppressed, and too affecting to your interest, to the national character, and to the existence of the Company in Bengal, to escape unnoticed and uncensured; transactions which seem to demonstrate that every spring of this Government was smeared with corruption, that principles of rapacity and oppression universally prevailed, and that every spark of sentiment and public spirit was lost and extinguished in the inordinate lust of unmerited wealth.*

5. The opportunity of acquiring immense fortunes was too inviting to be neglected, and the temptation too powerful to be resisted. A treaty was hastily drawn up by the Board, or rather transcribed, with a few unimportant additions from that concluded with Meer Jaffir, and a deputation consisting of Messrs. Johnstone, Senior, Middleton and Leycester appointed to raise the natural son of the deceased Nabob to the Subahdarry, in prejudice of the claim of the grandson, and for this measure

* They state they have inserted in the Appendix to the Proceedings "a most unpleasing variety of complaints, inquiries, evidences: accusations and vindications." Those Proceedings have unfortunately been lost.

such reasons are assigned as ought to have dictated a diametrically opposite resolution. Meeran's son was a minor, which circumstance alone would naturally have brought the whole administration into our hands, at a juncture when it became indispensably necessary we should realize that shadow of power and influence, which having no solid foundation was exposed to the danger of being annihilated by the first stroke of adverse fortune. But this inconsistence was not regarded, nor was it material to the views for precipitating the treaty, which was pressed on the young Nabob at the first interview in so earnest and indelicate a manner as highly disgusted him and chagrined his ministers; while not a single Rupee was stipulated for the Company, and their interests were sacrificed that their servants might revel in the spoils of a Treasury before empoverished but now totally exhausted.

6. This scene of corruption was first disclosed at a visit the Nabob paid to Lord Clive and the Gentlemen of the Committee a few days after our arrival. He there delivered to his Lordship a letter filled with bitter complaints of the insults and indignities he had been exposed to, and of the embezzlement of near 20 Lacs of Rupees issued from his Treasury for purposes unknown during the late negociations. So public a complaint could not be disregarded, and it soon produced an enquiry. We referred the letter to the Board in expectation of obtaining a satisfactory account of the application of this money, and were answered only by a warm remonstrance entered by Mr. Leycester against that very Nabob, in whose elevation he boasts of having been a principal agent.

7. Mahomed Reza Khan, the Naib Subah, was then called upon to account for the large disbursement from the Treasury, and he soon delivered to the Committee the very extraordinary narrative entered in our proceedings of the 6th of June, wherein he specifies the several names, the sums by whom paid and to whom, whether in bills, cash or obligations. So precise, so accurate an account as this of money issued for secret and venal services, was never, we believe, before this period exhibited to the Hon'ble Court of Directors, at least never vouched by such undeniable testimony and authentic documents. By Juggut Seat who himself was obliged to contribute largely to the sums demanded; by Mootyram who was employed by Mr. Johnstone in all those pecuniary transactions; by the Nawab and Mahomed Reza Khan who were the heaviest sufferers; and lastly by the confession of the Gentlemen themselves, whose names are specified in the distribution list.

8. Juggut Seat expressly declares in his narrative, that the sum which he agreed to pay the deputation, amounting to Rs. 1,25,000 was extorted by menaces, and since the close of our enquiry and the opinions we delivered in the proceedings of the 21st June, it fully appears that the *presents* from the Nabob and Mahomed Reza Khan exceeding the immense sum of 17 Lacs, were not the voluntary offerings of gratitude, but contributions levied on the weakness of the Government, and violently exacted from the dependant state and timid disposition of the Minister.

The charge indeed is denied on the one hand, as well as affirmed on the other. Your Hon'ble Board must therefore determine, how far the circumstance of extortion may aggravate the crime of disobedience to your positive orders; the exposing the Government, in a manner, to sale, and receiving the infamous wages of corruption from opposite parties and contending interests. We speak with boldness, because we speak from conviction founded upon indubitable facts, that besides the above sums specified in the distribution account to the amount of 2,28,125 Pounds Sterling, there was likewise to the value of several Lacs of Rupees procured from Nundcomar and Roy Dullub, each of whom aspired at and obtained a promise of that very employment it was predetermined to bestow on Mahomed Reza Khan.

831.—*Mahomed Reza Khan's conduct approved of.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 3, PARA. 16.]

As Mahomed Reza Khan's short administration was irreproachable, we determined to continue him in a share of the authority, at the same time that we associated with him men of weight and character, so that each became a check upon the conduct of the others. Accordingly we fixed on Juggut Seat and Roy Dullub for the reasons assigned in the proceedings; and we now have the pleasure to acquaint you that the business of the Government goes on with unanimity, vigour and despatch.

[MARCH 24, 1766.]

It is with satisfaction we also acquaint you that Mahomed Reza Khan continues to discharge the duties of his appointment with great assiduity. Any distinguishing mark of your favor will probably be a

spur to his endeavours; but in ordering a present for him, we would beg leave to recommend that one of a superior value may be sent to the Nabob, to prevent his regarding that useful Minister with an eye of jealousy.

832.—*Against having a Factory at Benares.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 3, PARA. 19.]

Shuja-ul-Daula is extremely averse to the establishment of Factories to his dominions which he considered as laying the foundation of a future rupture; the great abuses committed by the Company's servants and extraordinary extension of the privileges originally granted to the English, had been productive of much confusion and bloodshed in Bengal. We foresee no benefit that can accrue to the Company from maintaining settlements at so vast a distance from the Presidency, whatever advantages may arise to their servants. At least the prospect is so remote, while the expenses are so certain, the risk so evident, and the disputes it will occasion so probable, that we are at present of opinion the Factory lately established at Benares, ought immediately to be withdrawn; we mean as soon as the agreement between the Company and Bichvant Sing is expired. The limits of the Nabob's dominions are sufficient to answer all your purposes. These, we think, ought to constitute the boundaries not only of all your territorial possessions and influence in these parts, but of your commerce also, since by grasping at more you endanger the safety of those immense revenues, and that well founded power, which you now enjoy, without the hopes of obtaining an adequate advantage.*

833.—*Reasons for the Company having the Dewani.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 3, PARAS. 21-22.]

21. The time now approaches when we may be able to determine with some degree of certainty, whether our remaining as Merchants, subjected to the jurisdiction, encroachments and insults of the Country Government, or the supporting your privileges and possessions by the sword, are likely to prove most beneficial to the Company. Whatever be the consequence, certain it is, that after having once begun, and pro-

* This letter also formed part of the instructions to Lord Clive when he left the Presidency.

ceeded to such length, we have been forced to go on from step to step until your whole possessions were put to the risk by every resolution effected and by every battle fought. To apply a remedy to these evils by giving stability and permanency to your Government is now, and has been, the constant object of the serious attention of your Select Committee.

22. The perpetual struggles for superiority between the Nabobs and your agents, together with the recent proofs before us, of notorious and avowed corruption, have rendered us unanimously of opinion, after the most mature deliberation, that no other method can be suggested of laying the axe to the root of all those evils, than that of obtaining the Dewanny of Bengal, Behar and Orissa for the Company. By establishing the power of the Great Mogul, we have likewise established his rights, and His Majesty, from principles of gratitude, of equity and of policy, has thought proper to bestow this important employment on the Company, the nature of which is the collecting all the revenues, and after defraying the expenses of the army, and allowing a sufficient fund for the support of the Nizamut, to remit the remainder to Delhi, or wherever the King shall reside or direct.

[31st JANUARY 1766, PARA. 2.]

While the Nabob acted in quality of Collector for the Mogul, the means of supporting our Military establishment depended upon his pleasure. In the most critical situations, whilst we stood balancing on the extreme border of destruction, his stipulated payments were slow and deficient. The revenues were often withheld by disaffected Rajahs and turbulent Zemindars, who despised the weakness of his Government, or they were squandered in profusion and dissipated in corruption, the never-failing symptoms of a declining constitution and feeble administration. Hence we were frequently disappointed of those supplies upon punctual receipt of which depended the very existence of the Company in Bengal.

We cannot indeed look back without horror upon that desperate crisis to which your affairs were reduced when a mutinous spirit prevailed among your Troops, when dissensions distracted your consultations and a powerful enemy was invading the provinces, to seize and desolate your possessions, and probably to extirpate your servants. To us it evidently appears there remained but the alternative to advance as we

have done, and grasp at the whole power, or to shrink back into our primitive condition of simple Merchants, to abandon our possessions, disband our Forces, and rest our future hopes in the clemency of princes, who will not easily forget or forgive the superiority we have so long maintained.

In a word, this last measure was in itself impracticable, for we must observe, although with much regret, that the misconduct of individuals hath rendered the English name so odious that we are no longer secure than whilst our hands are armed for the defence of our lives and property.

834.—*Sending out Artillery Officers.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 30, PARA. 24.]

It would be of the utmost benefit to our plan for sending out 600 Recruits every year, that you also send out every year six or seven Gentlemen from the Academy at Woolwich for Artillery Officers, this being a service that suffers extremely for want of persons properly instructed in the business; since no Officer who knows the benefit of the Infantry service here will choose to quit it for any advantages the Artillery affords.

835.—*Illicit importation of Arms.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 3, PARA. 26.]

It also merits your serious consideration to provide, by every possible means, against the illicit importation of small arms to your settlement in India, and particularly to Bengal. Of late years this has become a profitable branch of trade with the European Captains, as well as that of furnishing the Natives with ammunition; and they elude the search of your Officers by sending round small vessels to meet them at sea in certain latitudes, or to Teneriff and St. Jago, or elsewhere out of the reach of your enquiries. However as their continuing such practices any longer may prove fatal in their consequences to all your possessions in this country, we earnestly exhort that you will immediately apply the most effectual remedies you can suggest either by way of prevention or by the rigorous and exemplary punishment of the offenders.

836.—*Field Officers, Chaplains, and Head Surgeon's share in trade.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 30, PARA. 31.]

We found that to remove the inconveniences of a free trade, prevent the oppressions daily committed, save this valuable article of commerce (in salt, beetle-nut, tobacco) from ruin, and diffuse the benefits resulting indiscriminately among all your servants entitled to dustuks, it was necessary to invest the whole in an exclusive Company composed of the three first classes of your Covenanted Servants, the Field Officers, Chaplains and Head Surgeons. In admitting the Field Officers and stating the proportions allotted to each class, we had particular regard to the present situation of your Council and Field Officers, who are now excluded many emoluments they before enjoyed. It is our opinion that Gentlemen who have risen to those stations with credit and reputation, are certainly entitled to something more than a subsistence. They even have a right to expect such advantages in your service, as may enable them to return in a few years with independence to their Native Country.

837.—*Vindication of Mir Jaffier from Holwell's charges.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 30, SUPPLEMENT.]

In justice to the memory of the late Nabob Meer Jaffier, we think it incumbent on us to acquaint you that the horrible massacres wherewith he is charged by Mr. Holwell, in his address to the Proprietors of East India Stock (page 46) are cruel aspersions on the character of that Prince, which have not the least foundation in truth. The several persons there affirmed, and who were generally thought to have been murdered by his order, are all now living, except two, who were put to death by Meeran, without the Nabob's consent or knowledge; and it is with additional satisfaction we can assure you that they are lately released from confinement by the present Subah, which fully evinces the entire confidence he reposes in the Company's protection against all attacks on his Government.

838.—*Encroachments of the River on the Fort.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 6.]

The expense which will be incurred to execute the proposed scheme for the security of the Fortifications against farther encroachment of the River, will amount (if of Teak alone) to the sum of Ten Lacs and a half of Arcot Rupees; and if of Teak and Saul mixed, to the sum of Six Lacs six thousand Arcot Rupees nearly. Agreed the scheme of Teak and Saul mixed be put in execution with all possible despatch.

839.—*Lord Clive on the conduct of Mr. Leycester at Dacca.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 29.]

The very extraordinary assertion of Mr. Leycester that he believed when I stept out of Council one day to despatch a Note, I was going to send for a Military Guard, in order to intimidate him, I should have attributed to the worst of causes, were I not well acquainted with his uncommon timidity and the great weakness of his nerves. That Gentleman's behaviour at Dacca, when he abandoned the Factory, which contained a very considerable proportion of the Company's Treasure and Merchandize, would in all probability have lost him the service, if General Carnac had not prevailed upon Mr. Vansittart to let him soften the paragraph written upon that subject in the General Letter. For further particulars, I refer the world to old Mr. Delaporte, who very quietly smoaked his Pipe in the Factory an hour and a half after Mr. Leycester had forsaken it, and then found leisure to carry off all his own effects, without any molestation from the enemy, who proved to be no other than a rabble of Faquiers. Nor was his zeal for the service much greater, when Captain Grant with a very small Detachment, retook the place without the loss of a man.

I perfectly remember the having said that it would not be amiss for General Carnac to have a man with a Goglet of water ready to pour upon his head, whenever he should begin to grow warm in debate.*

As to Mr. Leycester's declaration that he has heard me in a common company give a regular detail of the Committee Proceedings on any occasion of consequence previous to their being laid before the Board, I maintain it to be a falsehood.†

It is well known that the Proceedings in consultation used to be the constant subject of Table conversation, but I appeal to any man's observation whether the like practice now prevails.

I have not time to answer Messrs. Leycester and Gray's letter of 90 pages to the Court of Directors.‡

* Lord Clive remarked this in reference to the General's warmth of temper, "but always exerted in the cause of virtue and of the Company."

† Mr. Leycester stated that Lord Clive in the company of Ladies gave relations of some of the transactions of the Committee with the Young Nabob and his minister, which were not made known to the Board.

‡ Defending themselves against the accusations of Lord Clive.

840.—*Petition of the Natives of Calcutta against hanging a man for forgery.**

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 29.]

To the Honorable JOHN SPENCER, Esq., *President and Governor, &c., Council of Fort William.*

The humble Petition of the Native Inhabitants of Calcutta together with the Merchants, Banyans and others, whose estates, interests or habitations are in any part of the kingdoms of Bengal, Behar and Orissa within the jurisdiction of the English.

That whereas on or about the 27th day of February last past, Radachurn Mittre, Grandson of Govinderam Mittre, heretofore of Calcutta, Jemautdar (whose steady attachment and services to the English are too eminent to be so soon forgot) was condemned to death at the General Quarter sessions for the Town of Calcutta, there held on the day and date aforesaid; being indicted for, and convicted of a crime of which he is entirely innocent; but for want of being acquainted with the law by which he was tried, as well as the manner of defending himself and proving his innocence, is now fallen a victim to the malice of his prosecutors and his own ignorance.

Your petitioners therefore beg leave to set forth the general consternation, astonishment and even panic, with which the Natives in all parts under the dominion of the English are seized by this example of Radachurn Mittre. They find themselves subject to the pains and penalties of Laws to which they are utter strangers, and are liable through ignorance unwittingly to incur them. As they are in no ways instructed in those laws, they cannot tell when they transgress them, many things being it seems capital by the English Laws, which are only fineable by the laws of your petitioners' forefathers, subject to which they have hitherto been bred, lived and been governed, and that (till very lately) even under the English Flag.

* The Bench of Justices in their quarterly sessions having made a proclamation that English laws were to be extended to the natives, the latter issued a protest against it as they did not know English law and particularly as that law made offences capital which were only fineable according to Hindu law. This petition was placed at Mr. Verelst's request on the Records of Government. Mr. Verelst denied the right of the Bench of Justices claimed at their quarterly Sessions of assuming the royal prerogative of extending English law to the black inhabitants. "An act unjustifiable in itself and in its natural consequences cruel and oppressive."

Your petitioners shew that from their extreme ignorance of the laws to which they are but so lately subjected, they are in danger of suffering much from not knowing how to apply for those benefits and indulgences, which they are advised are by law allowed, and which they ought to have; and that the late proceedings against the unhappy Radachurn Mittre, were in many points defective and premature, and the sentence precipitate, as there were many circumstances that required the nicest and most scrupulous examination and the most attentive onsideration before condemnation past. And your petitioners are further advised that such sentence ought not to have been passed till after the expiration of four days, a term allowed the prisoner by law for arresting judgment and bringing his writ of error; and that it is on that account when a prisoner is brought to the bar to receive sentence, the Judge always asks him what he has to say why judgment should not pass? A question that has more than mere matter of form in it, for if he can show good and sufficient cause, they will on his proper representation re-hear the matter, of which benefit in law, the unhappy culprit was deprived by the sentence immediately following the verdict.

And further your petitioners are advised that the said indictment was very erroneous and naught, and that the said prisoner could not have been arraigned thereon, had he been versed in the laws to make his exceptions thereto; L. C. J. Hale saying that there is great exactness required in indictments where life is at stake, and therefore very nice exceptions are allowed thereto. And your petitioners further shew that the whole of the evidence tended to prove a negative which in law is held impossible to be done. Further, your petitioners are advised that the prisoner was tried for felony, though his crime when proved to the full is no more in law than a misdemeanour, "for the forgery of a Deed of Gift of mere personal chattels is in no way within the Statute." Again, "He who writes a deed in another's name and seals it in his "presence, is not guilty of forgery, because the law looks on this as the "other's own act." And that when the Jury recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the Court, a due for bearance of the sentence would have enabled him to set these and many other circumstances in their true light, an advantage which he has lost through his ignorance of the laws by which he was tried, and which must ever be the case in future unless the greatest care and circumspection be used by the Judges, who are said in law to be of Counsel for the prisoner.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray this Hon'ble Board to grant them a reversal of the said sentence, as it was pronounced out of time, and grant the prisoner a rehearsal; or if that cannot be obtained, that they will at least respite the execution of the unhappy condemned creature, till report be made thereof to His Majesty of Great Britain, and His Most Gracious pleasure known therein, and further your petitioners pray that the laws to which they are to be subject, may be translated into the Bengaley tongue that they may be enabled to know what will make them obnoxious thereunto.

And your petitioners will ever pray,

Signed by 95 of the principal Native inhabitants.

Huzzury Mull,	Nbemoychurn Seet,	Sunker Holdar,
Cossinaut,	Benjaram,	Ramnidy Tagore,
Mohunpersaud,	Radachurn Mullick,	Gocul Ghose,
Kissenchand Doss,	Kirparam Ghose,	Ramsunker Dutt,
Heera Loll,	Maniokchund,	Kamulpersaud,
Bungnaut,	Hurrakissen Mullick,	Doorgaram Dutt,
Gocul Ghose,	Joykissen Dass,	Kissen Churn,
Sookdeb Mullick,	Jhelaram Roy,	Ramchand Gose,
Kissenchund Dutt,	Moden Dutt,	Samchund Dutt,
Soberam Bysack,	Petumber Seet,	Goorchurn Seet,
Rossbehary Seet,	Benadebbehabry Seet,	Petumber Seet,
Bisnarain Tagore,	Kaleram Paul,	Babooram Paulit
Radhamohun Bysack,	Luckicondose,	Goculkissore Seet,
Diaram Tagore,	Gunnes Bose,	Doorgaram Sein,
Ramram Burm,	Kunderp Ghose,	Nundram Sein,
Churamony Dutt,	Anderam Dass,	Woodachund Cohnah,
Prankissen Cohnah,	Kirty Chund Cohnah,	Bindabun Dass,
Diaram Ghose,	Kabullram,	Bulram Biswas,
Ramkissore,	Radacond Surma,	Ramnidbe Surma,
Ramnaut Surma,	Diaram Surma,	Ramnidy Baraja,
Joykissen Surma,	Sam Chuckerbutty,	Diaram Mockerjea,
Kundoo Gossall,	Diachund,	Chaund Holdar,
Ramchurn Roy,	Hurrykissen Tagore,	Monohur Muckerja,
Oyoodram,	Nubkissen Moonsey,	Govindram,
Kirparam Mitre,	Sam Mussedar,	Nonick Dutt,
Hurrykissen Dutt,	Radhakissen,	Nittanund,
Radakissen Mullick,	Purmanund Bysack,	Gocul Mitre,
Doorgaram Tagore,	Ramsunker Bose,	Kabulram Tagore,
Totaram Bose,	Ramnarain Sein,	Hurrakissen Dutt,
Ramsunder Mitre,	Gongaram Mitre,	Ramsunker Mitre,
Ramsunker Bose,	Mohadeb Dass,	Woodaram Surma.
Goverdun Mitre,	Kamdeb Dass,	

841.—*Lord Clive's Durbar charges.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 3.]

January 30.—By Durbar charges, *viz.*, Paid Lord Clive's Bill of 1st instant for sundry presents, *viz.*,										
To Mahomed Reza Khan in June 1765.										
1 Pr. Sirpaich, 4 prs. Collongun ...						6,660	0	0		
To Raja Cunjeobehary										
1 ditto ditto ...						666	0	0		
To Monurbad Dowla Nabob—										
1 pair Pistols			216	0	0					
2 China Bandazes			172	12	9					
2 Tweezer Cases			75	9	6					
2 Snuff Boxes			129	9	9					
			594	0	0					
Given to his servants			540	0	0	1,134	0	0		
									8,460	0 0
Paid Lord Clive's Bill of 1st instant, *viz.*,										
Charges for building and fitting up an Assembly House with furniture for celebrating the late Peace concluded with Shuja-ul Dowla ...						4,853	7	3		
Expense of feeding wild Beasts and making a place for them to fight in						384	14	3		
Charges paid for Fireworks on this occasion ...						12,179	8	0		
Sundry presents to the keepers of the wild Beasts, &c., ...						2,426	15	3		
Expense of three public entertainments			3,927	2	6					
Paid for Liquors			5,451	9	0	9,378	11	6	29,223	8 3
									37,683	8 3

842.—*Lord Clive on fortune-making and a levelling spirit.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 12.]

We now* see an end to those altercations, minutes and dissents, which have so frequently perplexed and retarded public business. If we support our own dignity, and maintain harmony among ourselves

* Referring to the introduction of three Madras Civilians to occupy positions in Calcutta for which the Bengal Civilians were not considered qualified.

success must attend our Councils. It is necessary we should immediately exert our united endeavors to correct the abuses which have crept into many Departments, and to restore the business of Office to method and accuracy, which seem at present to be entirely neglected. Perquisites of any kind, not publicly allowed, and which arise from the Company's own property, deserve the appellation of Frauds, and should undoubtedly be abolished. The emoluments of the Trade of Salt and Betel, according to the new Regulation, added to the unlimited privilege of every other Trade, will surely be thought sufficient by Gentlemen who are not boundless in their expectations. Large fortunes have of late been acquired too suddenly for the time. Interest of the service, and a notion that the advantages of the public should give place to those of individuals has too much prevailed in this settlement among the servants. This is a most unreasonable way of thinking, and ought to be checked as soon as possible. We ought to know that the benefits we enjoy proceed from the indulgence of our employers, and not from any right of our own; and that they will assuredly curtail those benefits, if the trade of individuals be carried on to the prejudice of the Company. That fortunes should be acquired in the course of faithful and meritorious services, especially by those whose age or experience qualify them for high stations, is a maxim I will always maintain: but that independency should fall to every man's lot, in a day, without the claim of service, I affirm to be ruinous to the Company. This mischief was observed and dreaded by that General Court of Proprietors which requested my acceptance of the Government, and was one of the principal arguments with the Court of Directors for lodging extraordinary powers in the breast of a Select Committee. No man has ever shown himself more ready than I have to acknowledge merit and promoting the rewarding of it. Many of our younger servants, when a few years shall have ripened their judgment, and when proper ideas of subordination and duty to their superiors shall have taken place of that licentious and levelling spirit, which has endeavoured to throw down all distinction, will do honor to the service. When the affairs of these provinces are well established, and the servants, who from seniority lay claim to the higher stations, can support that claim by more essential qualifications, I shall be the first man to oppose bringing servants from one settlement to another. However, in the present disposition of men and things, the assistance of the gentlemen at Madras, in my opinion, was absolutely necessary.

843.—*The Zemindar of Backergunge responsible for things robbed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 24.]

Petition of Sutton Banks, Administrator to the Estate of John Ross, that the Budgerows of the deceased* were plundered of cash and effects to the amount of Current Rupees 14,286-3-9, as appears by the annexed account; that the people who hired themselves to the deceased as Mangies and Dandies were common robbers, and that the Zemindar of Backergunge plainly appears by his behaviour after the murder was committed to have been privy to the intentions of the murderers. I therefore hope and beseech this Hon'ble Board will take into consideration and order the amount of the annexed account to be paid by the Zemindar of Backergunge in whose district the robbery and murder were committed, or direct such other relief as shall appear just and equitable.

The Board referred the affair to the Nowab in order to make a severe example of such kinds of Zemindars.

844.—*Bad treatment of a Antonio Nunaz, a Portuguese inhabitant of Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 24.]

Petition to the Governor in Council of Antonio Nunez. As I am an inhabitant of Calcutta and an English subject I am in duty bound to make you, my Lord, &c., acquainted with an unaccountable action and proceeding of the Dutch at Chinsurah with all committed on the beginning of the present year, between 8 and 9 o'clock of the forenoon of that day while I was in my bed on board my own Budgerow going up to Patna. When a peon came from the Phiscall to say that I was sent for to appear before him. I modestly answered that I would with pleasure wait on him as soon as I was drest. But the man said he had orders to carry me with him in that condition as I was in then, made me astonished what should be the real cause of such illicit proceedings in such a day. But the fellow behaved in such a rude manner that I would have certainly been guilty of some actions that prompts a man in that condition. But I thought proper to go with him as I was then half drest to avoid disputes in order to know the real cause of

* One John Ross, who was for a considerable time employed by Mr. Hastings in building boats at Backergunge, was murdered near Backergunj, at a place called Comar.

such insolent errand. When I came in his presence he said that there was a complaint made to him for a debt I owed a Banian of this place. I desired to know the sum and how much. He said it was about a thousand Rupees, and that I ought to give a sufficient Bail of one of the inhabitants of this place, I mean Chinsurah, or to deposit that sum in his hands until it was decided, otherwise to be committed to their prison. As I am stranger of the place there was no one that would stand for me. Alas! I was thrown into a dungeon and black hole as an infamous criminal, deprived from all human assistance even of the use of books, pen, ink and paper for the space of three days, when I bribed the keeper to carry me to a friend of mine, where I wrote a letter to the Hon'ble George Lewis Vernet, Esquire, Director, representing him with the Phiscall's whole proceedings together with my hard case in a strange country destitute of friends and supplies. At the same time I made a protest that they would be accountable for all damages, &c., and disrespect shewn to the English colour to take forcibly an inhabitant of Calcutta from its protection and commit to their prison. Whereupon I am released giving a bail on condition I would settle the accounts with the complainant, who seems to be one that was my servant of Rs. 5 a month. I allowed him two years ago for to buy me some salt that I designed for Patna while I stayed at Chinsurah who seems rather in my debt than I to him. This seems a pretext to extort money from me by unlawful means.

Wherefore I now appeal to you, my Lord, &c., for redress as my Lord and Master, as also considering myself in no other light than your subject and an old servant that did serve several gentlemen for the space of near 40 years as writer and book-keeper and that too did it very faithfully, but age and disappointment made me go and look for myself and my most disgraced family in the age of 57 years.* Chinsura Jan. 4.

845.—*No inhabitants to go* 10 *miles outside Calcutta without the Governor's permission.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 24.]

A custom having crept in amongst the junior servants of absenting themselves from town without giving notice, which is often an impediment

* The next month finding he got no redress, but that the banyan's claims against him were being enforced, he bolted from Chinsura with only his waistcoat and cap on, went to Hughly, from thence he rode on a poney to Calcutta, leaving behind every thing belonging to him.

to the public business. It is ordered that in future they do not leave it without first obtaining permission of the Governor and the head of the respective offices they are employed in.

Ordered, also, that not any of the inhabitants do go beyond the limits of 10 miles round Calcutta without first applying for and obtaining the Governor's permission.

846.—*Estimates for roads, buildings, &c. in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 31.]

	A. Rs.	As.	P.
To take down the old hospital and clear away the rubbish, &c. ...	500	0	0
„ 2 water courses in the Sambazar road	250	0	0
„ 2 bridges in the Dullendaw road	1,000	0	0
„ 2 water courses in the Munickchurn road	250	0	0
„ 1 bridge in the Gopalnuggur road	1,500	0	0
„ 1 water course in the Chitpore road	125	0	0
„ 1 new bridge at Bankabazar	2,000	0	0
„ 2 „ in the Dumdumma road	1,500	0	0
„ 2 „ in the Baraset road	1,500	0	0
„ 3 „ in the Ballegutta road	1,800	0	0
„ 1 water course in the Chowringhee road	125	0	0
„ 28 small bridges and water courses in Calcutta ...	3,000	0	0

NEW FORT,
10*th March* 1766.

J. FORTNAM,
Civil Architect.

847.—*Jagat Set's treatment.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 14.]

Letter from Lord Clive, General Carnac and Mr. Sykes at Mootegyl, dated the 6th instant read, acquainting us that the two Seats, sons of those who were cut off by Cassim Ally Khan and fell a sacrifice to their attachment to the English Company, have laid before them a claim amounting to between 50 and 60 lakhs of Rupees, 30 lakhs of which having been lent to the Jemadars they do not think the Government answerable for, but that their claim of 21 lakhs which were lent to the Nabob Meer Jaffier for the support of his and the English army they are of opinion is just and reasonable; however, as it would

be inconsistent with equity now that the revenues of the country are appropriated to the Company to propose that the Nabob should pay the whole they have thought proper to agree, provided we have no objection, that the said sum shall be discharged by the Company and by the Nabob in equal payments within the space of 10 years.

848.—*Military Officers petition about the dearness of living.**

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 21.]

Without necessaries from Europe it is presumed, it will not be said we can live in Hindostan and all commodities thence notwithstanding as we are told your kind endeavors to the contrary, still bring the usual prices at the Presidency and here as formerly 50, 60 and upwards to 200 per cent. more than at Fort William.

The wages of servants too remain unalterable, nor is this all, but every black fellow has his peculiar province beyond which he cannot be brought to serve, indeed to an Officer nothing is new but multiplied distress.

If we fail here, my Lord and Gentlemen, to make sufficiently apparent how inadequate to the support of an Officer, is his present allowance, we will be ready at any time to lay before you an estimate of expenses, which we may venture to promise us, you will think essentially requisite to the support of nature, and the station he is honoured with, but it were becoming tedious contrary to our promise if we detained you here with the fatigues of an Officer in hot and rainy weather; the necessity of his having a horse or palanquin, and the present impossibility of procuring either; therefore waiving this, we will only beg leave before we close just to mention Madras and Bombay, and the cheapness of every thing at those settlements, amazing indeed if compared with the prices they bear at this, a truth well known to all, the Hon'ble Gentlemen we serve excepted, who as from best authority we have it, think inversely of this matter, believing that cheapness of necessaries is chiefly to be met with in Bengal.

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* Addressed to Lord Clive and the Council, signed by 9 Captains, 11 Lieutenants Ensigns, in consequence of the order of 31st December for curtailing batta.

849.—*Dispute with the Netherlands Company about a Rope walk at Balasore.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 5.]

Letter from the Governor and Council at Hooghly dated the 26th of last month read, setting forth that Mr. Marriott, our Resident at Balasore, has persisted in making a rope walk on a piece of ground belonging to the Netherlands Company notwithstanding the remonstrances of their Gomastah, enclosing sundry papers concerning the property of the ground in question, and desiring that the necessary directions may be sent to Mr. Marriott in consequence.*

850.—*The Punea ceremony at Murshedabad.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 5.]

Letter from Lord Clive, General Carnac and Mr. Sykes at Mootegyl, dated the 30th of last month, acquainting us that on the 29th they held the Puneah agreeably to the custom of the country and to those ideas which they entertain of the Company's honor and interest. That His Excellency the Nabob sat in quality of Nazim and the Right Hon'ble the President took his place as Collector of the Revenues for His Majesty—that they thought it by no means advisable to deviate upon slight occasions from the established forms and customs of this anniversary, and therefore accepted for themselves and for us the usual present of a Dress and Elephant to each. That the Zemindars and other Public Officers have consented to pay to the amount of five Lacs and twenty thousand Rupees as first fruits of the ensuing collections—of this sum four Lacs are already received, and the remainder they have reason to expect will be paid in a few days into the Treasury. That all possible despatch will be used in closing the balances of the present year so as to complete for the province of Bengal a collection of 140 lacs—a Revenue that must far exceed expectation when it is considered that six months were elapsed before we took charge of the collections, and that the more weighty and considerable balances were actually incurred before we received the investiture of the Dewanny.

851.—*Surgeons to have a share in the Salt trade.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 5.]

The President informed the Board that at the recommendation of Lord Clive and General Carnac, the Select Committee had come to a

* The Board decided to give up the piece of ground for the sake of peace.

resolution of proposing that the Surgeons should be formed into two separate Corps, one for the Civil the other for the Military establishment, and by way of encouragement for Surgeons who can be depended on to remain in the Army, that the two Head Surgeons at the Camp should have the same indulgence in a share of the Salt Trade and privilege of the Dustuck, as the four Head Surgeons at this Settlement.

852.—*The old Fort to be converted into a Custom House.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 5.]

In consequence of the proposal made by the Committee in their Proceedings of the 4th April for converting the old Fort into a Custom House, orders have already been given for the erecting of a Pier there for the greater convenience of landing and shipping of Merchandize conformably therefore to what the Committee now propose in prosecution of that plan. Ordered that the Civil Architect be directed to form a calculate of the expense of building Gateways from the points of the North-West and South-West Bastions of the old Fort to prevent Goods from being clandestinely taken away before they have been passed by the Custom Master, and of a substantial shed to be run up the whole length of the curtain with brick pillars and a slight terrace covering for the conveniency of securing the goods in case of rain.

853.—*Registration of Bricklayers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 19.]

The Engineer representing the great loss he is at for want of Bricklayers and Carpenters to carry on the public works, owing to their being employed by the inhabitants of the place, and upon enquiry it appearing to us that of 900 or 1,000 Bricklayers formerly in the Company's pay, all but 23 have been seduced into private employ by higher pay than is allowed by the Company; to prevent this growing evil we have resolved upon the following Regulations which we now lay before you for your approval and the sanction of your authority to have them put in execution.

1*st*.—That the price of labour in general shall be determined by what the Company pay, and no private person be suffered to exceed it, on pain of forfeiting the Company's protection.

2*nd*.—That all Carpenters, Smiths, Bricklayers, and Artificers of every denomination residing within the limits of Calcutta be obliged to register themselves in an Office to be appointed for that purpose, on or before the 15th of June.

3*rd*.—That a Certificate of the name, employment and the number each Artificer stands on the Register Book be delivered to each, and such as may be found after the appointed time at work without a Certificate shall be severely punished, and obliged to work on the Fortifications for five days for half pay.

4*th*.—That when the number in the place is thus ascertained no private person shall be suffered to employ any Artificers without special permission from the Committee, but must regularly indent for what they may have occasion for, and agreeable to those Indents an equitable distribution shall be made by the Committee of all that can possibly be spared from the works and a Certificate given with them to prevent disputes.

5*th*.—That these indents be made weekly and a muster of the whole be taken monthly, when such as cannot produce their Certificates shall be severely punished.

6*th*.—That such inhabitants as may be desirous of sending for Artificers from inland parts for their own service shall, when they arrive, send them with a Note to be registered and have a Certificate distinguishing them to be country ones, and specifying in whose service they are permitted to work.

7*th*.—The Register with a Return Book of the weekly distribution of the Artificers in private employ to be laid before the Committee at every meeting for their inspection. And as these Regulations must greatly increase the business of the Clerk, we take the liberty to recommend that one or two assistants be appointed under him with a proper apartment for an Office, and that he likewise be allowed a Sircar and Mate to keep a Register in Bengali, with a certain number of Peons with distinguishing Badges, to be employed occasionally when a search is necessary.

J. FORTNAM,
CHAS. BENTLEY,
CLAUD RUSSEL,
CHARLES FLOYER,
THOS. FRENCH.

COMMITTEE OF WORKS,
The 14*th May* 1766.

854.—*An intercepted letter to a Military Officer.**

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 20.]

We all glory in the Military for we hear they have put their Commissions in a box and have presented them to His Lordship. I don't doubt but that you have heard of the 5 Lacs he has given for the Military, a generous soul to "break their heads first and then give them a Plaister." I wish there was any good news to communicate, but no news is best news now a days, you will excuse my signing my name as I am liable to be suspended should this be opened, so will conclude myself, &c.

I hope Franklin's at China by this.

Compt attending Mr. Field.

855.—*On a Gold Coinage.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 2.]

Mr. Campbell the Assay Master being called before the Board reads the regulations proposed by the Committee for establishing a Gold Coinage. Whereupon they observe it is proposed that the par of exchange between the new Gold Mohur and the Silver Sicca Rupee shall for the present be estimated at the rate of 15 to 1, which they think too considerate a profit to the Merchants and Proprietors for bringing their Gold to the Mint, and are of opinion that the proportion of 14 to 1, which will yield a premium above the par with silver about 8 per cent. will be a sufficient encouragement to them for that purpose.

ORDERED

But lest contrary to the end proposed by this plan for establishing a Gold Currency, it should encourage the exportation of Silver to the Northward it will be necessary to guard as far as we are able against such a circumstance. Agreed therefore that it be recommended to the resident at the Durbar to procure proper orders to the Chokies on the boundaries of these provinces strictly to prohibit the exportation of Silver.

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* This letter was traced by the hand-writing to a Clerk in the Secretary's Office, he was suspended for the offence.

Mr. A. Campbell, Mint Master, writes :—

The plea adopted by the Select Committee and approved by the Ministers, for establishing a Gold Currency to obviate the scarcity of money which so large an annual exportation of Bullion to China must necessarily produce. The scheme hath already been intimated to the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, not as an effectual remedy, but a palliative that will obstruct the progress of the evil until a more radical cure be discovered.

To give such encouragement to the importation of Foreign Gold, and advantages to the Natives who hoard up and secrete this metal as might induce them to apply their useless treasures to the public benefit, were the great objects of the committee. The difficultly lay in fixing upon such a rate of exchange as should answer the intention of bringing Gold to the treasury, without reducing Silver below that natural value which it bears in most kingdoms in Europe; since this circumstance might be productive of inconvenience at home. Gold being merely a Merchandize in Bengal, and the quantity of it already contained in the Country very uncertain, it was thought proper to make the mean rate of exchange in Europe the principle upon which the following Regulations for a Gold Currency are calculated.

Notice is hereby given that in order to obviate the inconvenience arising from the prevailing scarcity of Silver, the Right Hon'ble the President and Council have come to a Resolution to establish a Gold Currency upon the following plan.

That a Gold Mohur be struck of the fineness of 20 carrats and 16 annas in actual weight, which shall be received in all payments public and particular at 14 Sicca Rupees each.

That for the convenience and despatch of business this Coin shall be issued in the subdivisions of Halves, Quarters and Eighths, which are to bear the same proportional value as the Mohur.

By this par of exchange between Gold and Silver there will accrue an advantage of 8 per cent. on the actual value of Gold and more in proportion to its purity, according to the medium of the market price on

all Mohurs, Cheguins, Nadarees, Gold Ingots, Dust, &c., that shall be brought to the Treasury, which is intended as an encouragement for the importation of that metal.

In consequence of these measures for establishing a Gold Currency the public revenues and all payments to the Hon'ble Company will be received indiscriminately in Gold and Silver, and a tender of payment in all money transactions both public and private shall be equally valued in the new Gold Mohur as in any species of Silver Rupees.

It appearing to the President and Council that many advantages will result to Merchants and the public in general from the foregoing plan. It is hereby directed to take place from this day and the Mint Master and Sub-Treasurer are accordingly directed to receive all Gold offered for Coinage or payment after the same hath been assayed and the value settled to the satisfaction of the Merchant agreeably to the above Regulation.

Notice is hereby further given that any person or persons discovered in attempting to make a variation of the exchange here settled between Gold and Silver, or in obstructing the currency of the new coin by refusing to accept it in payment, if Natives they will be delivered up to the Government to be punished with the utmost severity, if Europeans they will forfeit the Company's protection and be sent to England forthwith.

Any person or persons detected in clipping, melting down the new Gold Currency, or attempting the exportation of Silver to the northward will be also subject to the penalties aforesaid.

By Order of the President and Council.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 30th June 1766.

856.—*Revenue of* 14 *Villages near Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 9.]

An Account of Hustoobood of the fourteen Deehs or 59 *Villages from May* 1765 *to April* 1767.

	From May 1765 to April 1766.	Total.	To whom rented from May 1766 to April 1767.	For what rented from May 1766 to April 1767.
	Rs. As. P.	Rs. As. P.		Rs. As. P.
Deeh Bowanypore	1,529 12 10			
Deeh Chokerber	2,000 13 9			
Deeh Monohurporo	1,669 6 6			
	5,200 0 10		Domingo D'Rozario	5,250 0 0
Deduct charges ...	1,515 12 0	3,684 4 10		
Deeh Heerjee	2,815 10 0			
Deeh Serampore	1,400 15 5			
Deeh Topsiah	2,392 9 0			
	6,609 2 5		Abdaddy Mullan and Nideram Nang ...	8,010 0 0
Deduct charges ...	1,214 7 0	5,394 11 5		
Deeh Sunrah	2,110 13 9			
Deeh Cooliah	1,696 1 9			
Deeh Eutally	2,263 4 6			
	6,270 4 0		Seron Mundel and Sam Doss	7,060 0 0
Deduct charges ...	1,262 1 6	5,008 2 6		
Deeh Wooltadungey	2,424 13 0			
Deeh Bagzollah	807 13 3			
	3,232 8 3		Domingo D'Rozario	4,305 0 0
Deduct charges ...	498 11 0	2,733 13 3		
Deeh Chitpore	919 1 9			
Deeh Shotey	1,958 13 3			
Deeh Dokinpoickparah	2,046 3 0			
	4,924 2 0		Domingo D'Rozario	5,425 0 0
Deduct charges ...	1,101 8 3	3,822 9 9		
Not produce of 1,766 Sa. Rupees ...		20,643 9 9	Not produce of 1767 Sa. Rupees ...	30,050 0 0

857.—*Registry of Servants, wages fixed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 20.]

The Committee of Inspection lay before the Board their Proceedings of the 13th ultimo. The Regulations therein proposed for establishing the rate of Servants' wages at that Settlement are approved of.

Resolved that the same be carried into effect as soon as possible, and for this purpose that an Office be established for keeping a Register of all servants of every denomination in Calcutta.*

858.—*A Surveyor of Roads required.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 20.]

It is agreed to represent to our Hon'ble Masters the necessity of having a Surveyor of the Roads. When a Company's Servant is properly qualified, and can be spared for such post, he shall have the preference as well as on other occasions, but we think they can be more usefully employed than in an occupation of such a nature.

859.—*The evils of Arrack shops; they are to be licensed.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 4.]

Many complaints having been made of the great number of Retailers of Arrack in this Town which is attended with very pernicious consequences. Ordered that an advertisement be published that whatever person or persons may be detected in selling of Arrack without a proper License from the President and Council, shall forfeit the Company's protection, and such liquor as may be found in his or their possession be seized and confiscated, one half to go to the Informer, and the other half to the Company.

860.—*Petition of a shipwrecked Midshipman.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 18.]

Lords and Gentlemen of the Council of Calcutta, Monday, 17th August 1766.

Your humble Petitioner Richard Digby begs to lay this his petition before you, hoping that your Honours will take his present condition into

* This was a mere paper resolution: no action took place, none were registered.

consideration and permit him to stay in the country. I having come out of England as a Midshipman in the Ship "Falmouth" with everything fitting for a young Gentleman, and money to enable me to do something for myself, but the ship being cast away, have lost all, and to go home to Europe bare of money and clothes, as I have done twice before, I am afraid my friends will turn their backs upon me, and not see me, and I now having a fair opportunity of doing something for myself, if your Honors will permit me to stay in the Country, which will be the greatest favour bestowed upon your humble petitioner.*

(Sd.) Rd. DIGBY.

861.—*The Army collects the revenues.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 18.]

The Board taking into consideration the present state of the Army and the great expense incurred by maintaining so large a Force, not only for the defence and security, but likewise for collecting of the revenues of the Kingdoms of Bengal and Behar, are of opinion that the Company should only stand charged for such a part of the Forces as are necessary for the defence of their own Fortifications and territorial possessions, and that the Government be charged with all the rest.

862.—*Mr. Thackeray appointed a writer.*†

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 28.]

The following Writers being arrived were called before the Board, and expressed themselves satisfied with their treatment in the Passage.

Agreed they be stationed as follows:—

Mr. Dawson, under the Export Warehouse keeper.

Mr. Nicholson, Ditto Ditto

Mr. Cook,
Mr. Thackeray,
Mr. Michell,
Mr. Heatly,
} In the Secretary's Office.

Mr. Stoddard, in the Select Committee's Office.

Mr. Pattle, under the Military Pay Master General.

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* His application refused on account of his unbecoming behaviour on board a ship.

† An ancestor of the celebrated Novelist.

863.—*Form of a Lease to a Zemindar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 3.]

A Pottah or Lease is hereby given and granted unto Juggernauth Chatterjee for Magurah Pergunnah for and in consideration of the sum of Sicca Rupees 1,73,129 per annum, that is to say, to commence from the 1st November 1765 to the 30th October 1766, the said amount to be paid into the Collector's Cutcherry by 12 monthly payments conformable to the Kistbundee, and observing the following terms and conditions.

That all capital offences, *viz.*, Robberies, Thefts, Murders, &c., criminal causes shall immediately be made known to the Collector, and the offender sent to the Collector's Cutcherry.

No trees are to be cut down without permission from the Board.

He is not to grant lands for roads, tanks, &c., &c., without leave from the President and Council.

The rents are not to be increased on the ryots of the present tenanted or ryotty ground, nor any ryots turned out who duly pay their rents.

No fees shall be levied on Marriages, but an exact List thereof be transmitted to the Collector.

If any ryots die without lawful heirs an Inventory of his or their effects shall be taken publicly in the presence of one or more persons who shall see the same sealed up and secured, and immediate advise with a copy of the said Inventory shall be sent to the Collector's Cutcherry.

The Farmer is to observe and obey all such orders as shall be sent to him concerning the Company's business.

He is to collect and receive no more rents from the Ryots than have usually been agreable to the Hustabood. He shall impose no new Taxes on them.

No Gunge, market or bazar shall be erected or established so contiguous to the other Farmer as to injure the Farmer.

At the expiration of his term, the 31st October 1766, he shall deliver a full and just account of his transactions to the Collector.

If any disputes should arise between the Farmers touching their Grounds he is to apply to the Collector, who shall represent the same to the President and Council, and abide by their decision.

864.—*Clive's Minute on the Salt Trade.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 3.]

Some time before my departure from England the Court of Directors debated upon the propriety of suffering their servants in Bengal to trade in the articles of Salt, Betel, and Tobacco, and it could not be expected they would continue to them the enjoyment of those profitable branches unless means were devised by which the Natives would no longer be oppressed and by which the Nabob and his Company would largely partake of the advantages. Upon a firm persuasion that such means would be devised they were pleased to defer their final determination of this matter till the sentiments of the Select Committee should be transmitted to them. By all their letters of last year, and by several of this, they still seemed inclined to wait for our representations, but by their letter of the 19th February last per "Lord Campden," they positively forbid their servants to have any concern whatsoever in this trade. At that time, indeed, they could not have had the least idea of the favorable change in the affairs of these Provinces, whereby the interest of the Nabob, with regard to Salt, is no longer immediately concerned.

When we first took this important matter into consideration, I joined in opinion with the rest of the Committee, that if the trade could be put upon such a footing that the Nabob should receive more than had been received by any of his predecessors, the Company be amply considered, and the Natives become purchasers upon terms full as reasonable as in former times, the Servants might be indulged in the privilege under such certain rules and restrictions as would make the trade carry with it as little as possible the odious form of a monopoly. These points having been settled I consented to the plan laid down last year. My absence from the Presidency, and the multiplicity of affairs then in agitation, wherein the peace and tranquility of the provinces, the interest of the Company, and the honor of the nation, were more immediately concerned, prevented my paying that attention I could have wished to this important object. Altho' by the acquisition of the Dewanee, the whole of the duties belong to the Company, and by the diligence and zeal of the Members of the Committee of Trade many useful reformations had taken place, yet from my observation when I was last up the Country and from the heavy complaints against Europeans of the monopoly of Trade in general, I find that the industrious Native is still deprived of that share to which he has an undoubted, and a more natural right, nor is it yet on that equitable footing which justice and humanity would, I am sure, incline this Committee to establish.

I propose—

1st.—That all Salt provided by the Society of Trade shall be sold at Calcutta, and at the other places where it is made, and no where else.

2ndly.—That the price of Salt shall not exceed two Rupees per Maund, or Rs. 200 per 100 Maunds.

3rdly.—That the Salt shall be sold to the Natives only, who are to transport it to every part of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and to have the whole profits arising from the sale thereof, and that no Company's Servant, free Merchant or European shall be concerned in that article directly or indirectly after the sale of it at the above places.

4thly.—That the Calcutta Black Merchants shall be limited to a certain proportion of purchase, but that no Banian or Servant whatever belonging to any European shall be included or have any concern therein.

7thly.—That if Salt be sold at any of the Bazars or markets for one Cowrie above the stipulated price the vendor shall not only forfeit all the Salt then found in his possession, but be liable to a forfeit of Rs. 1,000 for every 100 Maunds of Salt so sold, and the Salt and money so forfeited shall go, one half to the Informer and one half to the Government.

The prohibition of a free Inland Trade, however disagreeable to individuals, must now take place and be confined to Imports and Exports, and to their immediate returns, which returns shall be made only to the Presidency, or to one other of the established Factories. The Company are sovereigns in India, and they have declared that the trade carried on for these 4 years past, is an usurpation not only of their prerogative, but of the privileges of the Natives, and repugnant to the express and repeated orders of the Court of Directors. The indulgence however in the trade of Salt upon the footing it will, I hope, now be established, should in my opinion obviate all complaints since it seems to be the most equitable modus between the Company and their Servants, and at the same time a distribution of natural right to the people of the Country, considering that the late great advantages of unlimited inland trade are cut off, I cannot imagine that the Court of Directors will deny their Servants the share of benefit as a recompense for their attention and assistance in the management of the important concerns of these provinces. On the other hand, I would have the Servants look upon these emoluments as a gift from the hand of their employers, offered to them annually in reward of their fidelity, and which will certainly be withheld from them if ever their authority should be resisted and discontent and rapacity take place of gratitude and moderation.

865.—*Vagrant Europeans to be deported to Calcutta from the Madras Presidency.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 8.]

Letter from Mr. Pybus, Chief at Masulipatam, dated the 17th August, read, informing us that in consequence of directions from the President and Council at Fort St. George for securing all vagrant Europeans that might be within those Circars, and to send them to our Presidency as opportunities might offer, he had sent two to Bandamallanka to be forwarded to us from thence by Mr. Whitechill, the Resident there.

866.—*Lord Clive's Minute on the Penal Bond.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 22.]

Our attention as a Select Committee invested with extraordinary powers by the Court of Directors, has been constantly engaged in reforming the abuses which had

crept into the several Departments of this Government. The important work has been steadily prosecuted with zeal, diligence, and disinterestedness on our parts, and the success of our labours gives us reason to hope that our employers will be of opinion we have established many useful and necessary Regulations. Many others however are still wanting to complete our plan, but I doubt not that the same principles which have hitherto guided our conduct, will continue to direct and to justify the measures we have yet to pursue.

To place the President in such a situation as will render his Government completely honourable to himself, and advantageous to the Company, appears to me an object of as much consequence as any that has been taken into our consideration. Where such immense revenues are concerned, where power and authority are so enlarged, and where the eye of justice and equity should be ever watchful, a Governor ought not to be embarrassed with private business, he ought to be free from every occupation in which his judgment can possibly be biased by his interest. The extensive Commercial affairs, the study of the Finances, the Politics of the Country, the epistolary correspondence, the Proceedings of Council and Committee, these are sufficient to employ every moment of his time, and I am confident that they cannot be conducted with the requisite attention to the Company's interest, if the mind of the Governor be diverted by complicated mercantile accounts of his own.

If we look back upon those unhappy dissensions which have frequently brought the Company's possessions in Bengal almost to the point of destruction, we shall find that they have generally proceeded from the conduct of Governors, who, too eager in pursuit of private interest, have involved themselves in affairs which could not be reconciled to the strict principles of integrity. To prevent scrutinies and discoveries which might in any degree affect their honour, they have frequently been reduced to the necessity of conniving at abuses which would otherwise have been brought to light and remedied. The welfare of this great Company should be the sole study of a Governor; attached to that point alone his measures could never be thwarted by the malice of opposition, because they would all be proposed for the public good, and actions will alway be justified, or condemned from the principles on which they are founded.

Such a state of independency and honour must be highly eligible to a Governor, and in my opinion it can only be acquired by cutting off all possibility of his benefiting himself either by Trade, or by that influence which his power necessarily gives him in these opulent Provinces.

I therefore propose that the Governor shall, in the most public manner, in the presence of all the Company's Servants, the Mayor and Aldermen and Free Merchants assembled at the Mayor's Court, take the Oath and execute the Penalty Bond hereunto annexed. The consideration I have proposed is 1⅛th per Cent. upon the revenues collected excepting those arising from the Company's own lands at Calcutta, Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong.

Although by these means a Governor will not be able to amass a fortune of a million or half a million in the space of two or three years, yet he will acquire a very handsome Independency and be in that very situation which a man of nice

honour, and true zeal for the service would wish to possess. Thus situated, he may defy all opposition in Council; he will have nothing to ask, nothing to propose but what he means for the advantage of his employers; he may defy the Law, because there can be no foundation for a Bill of Discovery; and he may defy the obloquy of the world, because there can be nothing censurable in his conduct. In short if stability can be insured to such a Government as this where riches have been acquired in abundance in a small space of time by all ways and means, and by men with or without capacities, it must be effected by a Governor thus restricted, and I shall think it an honor, if my proposal be approved to set the first example.

19*th December* 1766.

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*Penal Bond of the President.**

This Indenture made the 1st day of October in the sixth year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty six between the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies on the one part, and Robert Lord Clive Baron Clive of Plassey of the Kingdom of Ireland President and Governor of Fort William in the Kingdom of Bengal on the other part. Witnessseth that in consideration of the said Robert Lord Clive's being President and Governor of Fort William and in consideration of the several sum and sums of money to be received by him the said Robert Lord Clive in manner following, that is to say, the sum of one and one eighth per cent. upon the revenues of Bengal Behar and Orissa (save and except the revenues of the lands of the said United Company at Calcutta, Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong) to be paid unto him in monthly quarterly or yearly payments during the time he shall continue to be President and Governor of Fort William aforesaid and also in consideration of his salary stated allowances and Commission upon the Mint, Coral and upon Freight Goods, the said Robert Lord Clive doth hereby for himself his heirs executors and administrators covenant promise and agree to and with the said United Company and their successors that the said Robert Lord Clive during the time he shall continue to be President and Governor of Fort William aforesaid shall not directly nor indirectly upon any pretence or pretext whatsoever carry on use or exercise any Trade or Commerce in the way of a Merchant or otherwise traffic adventure or trade in any commodities whatsoever at to in or from the East Indies China Persia or Mocha or in any part thereof or elsewhere between the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan either on his own account or in company with or for or on account of any other person or persons in any article of Merchandize whatsoever (save and except for the benefit of the English East India Company and except in such Goods and Merchandize as shall be remaining on hand and unsold at

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* Proposed by the Committee to be taken by the Right Hon'ble the President and all future Governors of Fort William against the Governor's trading, and receiving presents.

The Council, Mayor and Aldermen assembled at the Town Hall, October 1st, when the President took the oath. The Company's servants and the rest of the inhabitants were desired to attend upon the occasion.

the time he the said Robert Lord Clive commenced President and Governor of Fort William and wherein he now hath any share or interest which only he shall or may sell or dispose of or give commissions or directions for selling the same and further save and except and it is the true intent and meaning thereof that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to prevent preclude or hinder him the said Robert Lord Clive from purchasing diamonds or other precious stones provided he does not dispose of the same by way of barter or sell here or in any other part of the East Indies or from sending or remitting his estate and fortune to England by Bills or in any other shape whatsoever) nor barter sell or exchange any kind of Goods Wares or Merchandizes nor accept from nor give to any person or persons commissions for managing or transacting business or affairs of Merchandize (except as before is excepted).

And the said Robert Lord Clive doth hereby further covenant promise and agree to and with the said United Company and their successors that the said Robert Lord Clive shall not nor will himself nor shall willingly or wittingly permit or suffer any other person or persons in his name or to his use to advance lend or place out any sum or sums of money at a greater rate premium or interest than 10 per cent. per annum so that not the least interest share portion or dividend or any other profit advantage or emolument whatsoever shall in respect thereof exceeding the said premium or interest of 10 per cent. per annum as aforesaid arise or accrue unto him the said Robert Lord Clive his heirs executors or administrators or unto any other persons whatsoever thro' friendship favor or influence exerted by him in their behalf contrary to the true intent and spirit of the Oath hereunto annexed.

And the said Robert Lord Clive doth hereby further covenant and agree that he shall not nor will upon any account or pretence whatsoever directly or indirectly accept take or receive nor knowingly wittingly or willingly suffer or permit to be accepted taken or received by any person or persons for his use or in trust for him his heirs executors and administrators or for any other person or persons whatever out of personal friendship to them or regard to his own interest directly or indirectly any jewels effects sum or sums of money whether by Bonds Bills Notes Obligations or otherwise or accept of retain or keep any fee gratuity or reward in jewels effects money obligations or promises or assurances of money in writing of any nature or other thing whatsoever which has been heretofore deposited for services promised to be performed or favors to be received or which shall hereafter be deposited lent received or paid into his hands or custody or into the hands or custody of any other person or persons in trust for him nor knowingly permit or suffer any other person or persons to receive take or accept of the same or any part thereof by his authority or influence from any King Prince Vizier Monsubdar Nabob Dewan Fouzdar Jemidar or from any other person or persons natural born subjects of the East Indies China Persia or Mocha of what degree nomination or quality soever or from any Servant Agent or Council of any King Prince Vizier Monsubdar Nabob Dewan Fouzdar or Jemidar exceeding the value or amount specified in the Covenants with the said United Company.

And the said Robert Lord Clive doth further covenant and agree that no other emoluments or advantage whatsoever (excepting as herein excepted) shall in any wise howsoever directly or indirectly arise or accrue unto him hisheirs executors or administrators or to any other person whatever thro' favor or friendship either from his Office

or for or by reason or means of the influence and authority he may have as President and Governor nor will he the said Robert Lord Clive receive or knowingly permit any other person to receive any fee gratuity or advantage from the disposal of any place employment or office to any European or any other person whatever in or out of the Company's service. And in order to a discovery to and satisfaction for any actings or doings of the said Robert Lord Clive or breach of any covenant clause article or agreement herein contained contrary to the true intent and meaning hereof.

It is hereby agreed that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said United Company and their successors to exhibit or file any Bill or Bills of Complaint of Discovery in his Majesty's Court of Chancery or Exchequer at Westminster or by three or more of the Council at Fort William for the time being on behalf of the said United Company in the Hon'ble the Mayor's Court for the Town of Calcutta at Fort William aforesaid or by any other person or persons whatsoever against him the said Robert Lord Clive his executors and administrators whereunto the said Robert Lord Clive doth hereby agree that he will not demur nor plead in bar of the discovery or relief sought by such Bill or Bills that hereby he is may or shall become liable to any penalty or forfeiture by force of any law or statute board covenant agreement or otherwise howsoever but shall make and put in a full and perfect answer and answers to all the parts thereof and shall not in such answer or answers insist upon any penalty forfeiture law or statute bond covenant or agreement or allege any matter whatsoever whereby to prevent bar or preclude the said Company or any other person or persons from the discovery or relief sought or to be sought by such Bill or Bills as aforesaid.

And for the true full and faithful performance of every article clause promise covenant and agreement herein contained and the true intent and meaning thereof on the part and behalf of the said Robert Lord Clive he the said Robert Lord Clive doth hereby bind and oblige himself his heirs executors and administrators unto the said United Company and their successors in the penal sum of 1,50,000£ of lawful money of Great Britain to be recovered in case the said Robert Lord Clive shall act contrary to the true intent and meaning of these presents one third part of the said sum of 1,50,000£ sterling to be paid and be payable unto such person or persons as shall sue for the same after information and full proof shall be made thereof in the Court of Chancery, Exchequer or the Mayor's Court at Calcutta or before the Court of Directors of the said United Company and their successors or before the Council of Fort William aforesaid and the remaining two third parts thereof shall be paid to and for the use of the said United Company and their successors.

867.—*Penalty on soldiers infected with a contagious disease.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 22.]

The Board, taking into consideration the method proposed by Colonel Smith in his letter of the 10th instant, read at last Consultation,

for victualling the sick Troops in Garrison and the Field, concur with him in opinion that a distinction should be made between those men who are received into the Hospital on account of common and natural disorders, and venereal cases, and as a further discouragement and punishment to the latter the Board are of opinion that 5 instead of 3 Rupees should be deducted from their pay.

Considering also the allowances which the Surgeons are to receive for victualling the sick, we think the sum Colonel Smith has proposed for them rather too much, and it is therefore agreed that the Surgeons of the Army shall in future be paid for victualling the sick, whether in Garrison or the Field, according to the following Regulation.

In Garrison.					In the Field.				
For common distempers.					*For common distempers.*				
From the Company	... Rs.	10	0	0	From the Company	... Rs.	8	0	0
„ the Contractor	... „	5	0	0	„ the Contractor	... „	10	0	0
„ the Soldiers	... „	3	0	0	„ the Soldiers	... „	3	0	0
		18	0	0			21	0	0
In Garrison.					In the Field.				
In venereal cases.					*In venereal cases.*				
From the Company	... Rs.	5	0	0	From the Company	... Rs.	3	0	0
„ the Contractor	... „	5	0	0	„ the Contractor	... „	10	0	0
„ the Soldiers	... „	5	0	0	„ the Soldiers	... „	5	0	0
		15	0	0			18	0	0

868.—*Midnapore Trade Exports.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 29.]

A List of Goods which the Merchants agree to provide (besides the Investment) if they receive the money advance in Arcot or Surat Rupees

on or before the 12th October 1766, the Goods to be ready by the last day of February 1767.

Charconnaes	35	Cubits	long	and	1¾	broad	...	1,050	Pieces.
Chucklaes	50	„	„		2	„	...	625	„
Seersuckers—									
Fine	40	„	„		2	„	...	360	„
Ordinary	...				...		...	285	„
Teapoys	28	„	„		1½	„	...	900	„
Shawl Bafts	40	„	„		2	„	...	170	„
Ginghams	20	„	„		2	„	...	500	„
Nillaes	20	„	„		2	„	...		
Fine	...				...		...	950	„
Middling	....				...		...	2,600	„
Sannoes	25	„	„		2	„	...		
Superfine	...	...			...		...	380	
Fine	...	...			...		...	700	„
Middling	..	...			...		...	700	„

MIDNAPORE, 26*th September* 1766. } Errors Excepted.

869.—*A new Hospital, and Burial Ground.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 29.]

The Board taking into consideration the great inconvenience attending the want of a proper Hospital for the Military, the present one being only a temporary building in the old Fort destitute of the proper accommodations. It is judged expedient that a commodious one be erected as soon as possible, and the Civil Architect attending the Board on this occasion he is ordered to point out a proper spot for an Hospital to be built upon, and at the same time to deliver in a plan of one with an estimate of the expence.

The present Burying Ground* situate in the middle of the Town is also very detrimental to the health of the inhabitants and too much confined; the Civil Architect is therefore directed to point out a more convenient situation for one to be made of proper dimensions.

Ordered also that the Ditch† round the old Fort which has lately been converted into a Custom House and Cotah, be filled up.

* The one at St. John's Church which contained at this time the corpses of all Europeans who had died in Calcutta since 1698, probably some 12,000 corpses.

† This Ditch lay to the east of the present Custom House, the bodies of those who died in the Black Hole were buried in it.

870.—*The wreck of the Falmouth; expenses.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 29.]

The Buxey lays before the Board an account of charges incurred in the Buxey Connah in Budgerows, Boats and necessaries supplied at Culnea, and sent from hence for the relief of the people saved from the "Falmouth," amounting to Rs. 10,135 which is ordered to be paid.

871.—*Distribution of Madeira.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 29.]

The Import Warehouse Keeper delivers in as entered hereafter his report of the Madeira Wine received this season per "Britannia," the whole consignment being 125 Pipes, from which 13 Pipes being deducted for leakage, and 4 reserved for the West Coast conformably to the paragraph of our Hon'ble Master's commands dated the
the quantity remaining will be Pipes 108, the distribution whereof is now agreed on as follows:—

To the Governor 5, Second 2, General Carnac 2, the rest of the Council 1 each, 12, Two Colonels 2, Residents at Malda, Burdwan and Midnapore, 1 each, 3, = 26 Pipes.

3 Lieutenant Colonels, 2 Chaplains, 11 Majors, 15 Senior Merchants, 1 Chief Engineer, ½ each = 16 Pipes.

60 Captains, 8 Factors, 5 Surgeons, ⅓rd each = 24⅓rd Pipes.

85 Writers, 200 Subalterns ⅙th each = 48 Pipes.

Quantity required according to the above distribution. Pipes 114⅓rd, which exceeding the Consignment of the present year remaining as above by 6 Pipes and ⅓rd the same is ordered to be taken from the wine remaining in the Godown of last year's consignment.

Ordered that the Import Warehouse Keeper do give notice to the several sharers, and issue to them their respective proportions accordingly after the rate of 20 per Cent. advance upon the prime cost and charges.

872.—*The Government approval of Reza Khan.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 13.]

Mahomed Reza Khan ever since his appointment to his Office in the Government having acted much to the satisfaction of the Board and the Select Committee, by an invariable attention and punctuality to

every branch, particularly that of the Revenues, and he being now in Calcutta, it is proposed by the Right Hon'ble the President that the thanks of this Board on behalf of the Hon'ble Company be given him, which being unanimously assented to, he is introduced, and the acknowledgments of the Board were accordingly made to him.

873.—*The Nawab's donation to the Soldiers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 13.]

From the Nabob Syfe-ut Dowla, to the Right Hon'ble Lord Clive.
Recd. 21st October 1766.

Some time ago my deceased brother the Nabob Najim-ut Dowla paid to your Excellency the sum of 5 Lacs of Rupees agreeable to the Commands of our late Father Meer Mahomed Jaffier Khan, and we hear you have settled that sum as a fund for the soldiers. Last year my late brother paid in 6 Lacs of Rupees into the Company's Cash upon Bond; of this money 3 Lacs have been paid to me at Moorshedabad, and the balance of 3 Lacs which remains I give as a fund to be disposed of in the same manner as the former 5 Lacs, and request your Excellency to settle it after the same manner.

874.—*A Free Merchant's bad health in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 20.]

To the Right Hon'ble Robert Lord Clive, Governor, and the Hon'ble the Council of Fort William.

The petition of John Pritchard, Free Merchant.

That your Petitioner finds the climate disagrees with his constitution, not having had one day's perfect health since he came into the Settlement. Wherefore he most humbly prays for permission to return to Europe.

CALCUTTA,
20th October 1766. } (Sd.) JOHN PRITCHARD.

875.—*A premium to encourage Soldiers to plead sickness.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 27.]

We express our apprehensions that the Surgeons of the Army will find their account in encouraging the men to plead sickness in order to be received into the Hospital, and that we must therefore depend upon the vigilance of those Officers who visit the sick to prevent this evil.

876.—*Fulta—Row at, among the Dutch and English common people.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 23.]

Two days before I received your Honor's letter, I had complaints from the Provost Martial, who is at Fulta, concerning disorders among the common Ship's people, who came ashore at that place.

That man wrote to the Fiscaal that a Sigdar, belonging to the English, had tied and carried away a Sircar, belonging to the Fiscaal, and that he had caused him in a despicable manner to be beat with the slippers; upon which he, the Provost Martial, went to the mentioned Sigdar for to bring back the Sircar, but as the Sigdar was unwilling to let him go, he was obliged to have recourse to force, and gave some blows again, and by way of reprisal took one of your people and put him in confinement on board of one of the Ships.

And as I never judge from the report of my people, before I have caused the affair to be enquired into, and before I lay before your Honor my complaint; and being now informed, that your people have been the aggressors, and have treated the Sircar in a cruel manner, and that our people have done nothing but to defend themselves, and to release the man whom they had carried away bound.

So I must, Honorable Sir, in the name of the Dutch Company, request that your Honor would please to order, that the offenders be duly punished, and that for an example could not be too severe. Concerning the Sigdar, I have ordered that he shall immediately be released.

It is not so surprising that such disorders are committed by the common sort of people. But more so that orderly people, or at least such as pretend to pass for such, commit such disorders, as last night

has here happened by two English Officers, one whose name is George Waller and the other Finlasson.

These Gentlemen came by force into the house of one of our inhabitants, did beat all the people of the house, and committed all sorts of mischiefs. Besides which they have wounded two of our Cutcherry Peons, who came there by the call of the people.

This morning I have charged these Gentlemen to go out of our Territory, and I request your Honor would deal with them according to equity, that the like may not happen again, as otherwise I shall be obliged in future to punish such house-breaking according to its demerit.

HOOGHLY, *November 5th* 1767. } I am &c., (Sd.) G. L. VERNETT.

877.—*Against enlarging the Fort.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 31, PARA. 7.]

These works have for several years past been a perpetual drain for treasures which might have been more usefully applied*; yet should we ever meet with the misfortune of being driven off the field, and cooped up within the walls of this Fort, your affairs may then be considered as desperate and irrecoverable. It is therefore the unanimous opinion of this Committee, confirmed by the sentiments of the Chief Engineer, that we ought to regard the new works as a temporary security only; for which purpose the Ditch, Ramparts, Bastions and Ravelin already finished are sufficient to withstand the greatest force which the powers of this Country are ever likely to assemble.

878.—*Lands in the 24-Pergunnahs.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 31, PARA. 12.]

It evidently appears to us that considerable frauds were formerly committed in these collections (of revenue); with a view of correcting which we have determined that the Leases granted to the present Farmers shall expire on the first day of November next. By that time we hope to

* They refer also to the many shameful abuses committed in Musters, returns in Hospitals in the Lower Provinces.

find leisure to ascertain their value more exactly; at least we shall then silence the clamour of the inhabitants against what they deem a monopoly, by universally diffusing and extending the benefits arising from the possession of lands among the most substantial and reputable Banians and black Merchants living under your protection.

879.—*Corruption.**

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 31, PARA. 16.]

Mr. Johnstone insinuates by way of reflection on the management of the Committee, that we were under the necessity of applying to the Seats for the loan of a Lac and a half of Rupees. The fact is true; but it rests with Mr. Johnstone and his associates at the Board to explain how the Company's Treasury came to be at so low an ebb as to want so poor a supply. It also rests with them to explain, how the Nabob (for our first application was to the Nabob) came to be so impoverished by presents made to the deputation, that he could not furnish even this small relief to the necessities of the Company. And it rests particularly with Mr. Johnstone to assign the reason why a balance of 6 Lacs was due from Burdwan to your exhausted Treasury, whilst he was filling his own pockets at the Durbar, which balance was afterwards collected by Mr. Verelst.

880.—*Ramnat's corruption.*†

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 31, PARA. 18]

The fact, however, was nothing more than that Lord Clive had ordered a Guard of Sepoys over Ramnaut, a man of infamous character said to be employed by Mr. Gray in the most iniquitous acts of extortion, and a Native of Malda, who himself refused to claim the protection of our Laws, because he should thereby become subject to the punishment to which those Laws condemn his Offences, whereas numberless instances occur in former Governments in Bengal, of Native inhabitants of Calcutta being confined by Military Guards upon accusations of

* Mr. Johnstone had been Resident at Burdwan but was dismissed for taking presents from the Nawab as well as for maladministration at Burdwan.

† Mr. Gray who had been dismissed from Malda, where he was Resident, charged Lord Clive with being a Military despot.

infinitely less consequence to the public weal. In short, those two Gentlemen (Messrs. Gray and Leicester) were themselves so dissatisfied, so discontented and industrious in propagating the seeds of their ill humour, that we are firmly convinced the suspension of the one was necessary, and the resignation of the other is conducive to the benefit of your service.

881.—*Evils of young men in high situations.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 31, AND MARCH 24, PARA. 20.]

This decline of public spirit we must in great measure ascribe to a practice which hath prevailed at this settlement more than at any other, of entrusting some of the most weighty employments in your service to Gentlemen scarcely arrived at years of maturity. The business of the Secretary's Department was committed to a youth of three years, standing in your service. The employment of Accomptant is now discharged by a writer still lower in the list of your servants. The important trusts of Military Storekeeper, Naval Storekeeper and Storekeeper of the Works were bestowed, when last vacant, upon writers; and a writer held the post of Pay Master to the Army at a period when near Twenty Lacs of Rupees had been deposited for months together in his hands.

We will not enquire how far the employments have been duly discharged. Youth cannot argue dishonesty; but it certainly doth in general imply the want of sufficient discretion and experience. We will only observe that reposing trusts of so important and lucrative a nature in the hands of young men, hath rendered them too soon independent, and given birth to that spirit of dissipation and luxury, of which you were very justly informed before the appointment of this Committee.

From this source likewise flowed a grievance of the most serious consequence to your service, which demands an immediate remedy. The younger servants being incapable themselves to discharge the functions of their several Offices, were forced to have recourse to the industry of their Banians and black writers; and thus their employments fell into the hands of their Assistants, Banians became principals in the several Departments, the affairs of the Company flowed through a new and unnatural channel, and your most secret concerns were publicly known in the Bazar. Such trusts reposed in those Banians encouraged them to advance large sums of money to their Masters, which served

no other purpose than to support their extravagance and render them dependant on their servants instead of being obedient to the Governor and Council. It would be unnecessary to set forth the consequences to a settlement, circumstanced as this is, of placing too much confidence in the assistance of the Natives. The frequent and imminent dangers which you have lately experienced, are evident proofs that unless your more important affairs can be transacted by your own servants, there never will be that despatch and secresy upon emergencies which are necessary to ensure success. We have resolved to support the steps we have taken or we must submit to the anarchy and confusion consequent on subjecting the decrees of your Select Committee to the revival and repeal of young gentlemen, just broke loose from the hands of their school-master. Each would think himself qualified to transact your weighty affairs in Council, at an age when the laws of his country adjudge him unfit to manage his own concerns to the extent of forty shillings.

882.—*A Gold Currency.*

[LETTER TO COURT, MARCH 24.]

We have recommended to His Lordship the expediency of establishing a Gold Currency in order to obviate the bad consequences of impoverishing the Country by the large annual exports of treasure to China. This expedient, you are already informed, we only consider as a palliative; but as it will most undoubtedly for the present increase the current specie, and give encouragement to the importation of Gold bullion, without producing a single inconvenience that we can foresee, we have adopted it without scruple, until some more effectual remedy be devised. For farther reasons, and also the means proposed for carrying this measure into execution, we beg leave to refer to our Proceedings.

883.—*The Bettea Country, and its resources.*

[LETTER TO COURT, MARCH 24.]

Sir Robert Barker, who was lately despatched from Patna to the Bettea Country in the Behar Province to demolish the Forts and reduce to obedience some of the turbulent Zemindars deeply in arrears to the revenue, hath succeeded in the principal objects of his expedition, without encountering any considerable resistance. We beg leave to transmit

the following extract of a letter from him just received by the President, rather as an article of curious intelligence than a prospect of advantage to the Company.

From the Camp at Rampore, March 5, 1766.

"Bettea will, I think, be of considerable consequence to the "Company. Its Firs will afford masts for all the Ships in India, which "must produce a new and considerable trade with the other nations "in India, as well as advantage to our own shipping. Gold and Cinna- "mons are also here (the latter we gather in the jungles). Timbers as "large as any I have seen; Musk and Elephant's teeth, besides many "other commodities I have not yet got the knowledge of."

884.—*Mutiny among Officers.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 8.]

6. Whether any endeavors were exerted by the Civil Servants to propagate their discontent among the Military Officers is what we cannot directly affirm; but from several of their intercepted letters, it appears they were much elated at seeing the Army tainted with the malignity of their own infection. We had, agreeably to the advices already transmitted Home, reduced the double Batta to the Military Officers as early as the month of January, yet not a murmur or complaint transpired further than was expressed in a very moderate representation to the Board from the Captains and Subalterns of each of the three Brigades. All was calm and serene in Camp, as if they rested satisfied with the orders issued by the Select Committee, until a proper state of their circumstances could be laid before the Court of Directors.

7. In this deceitful tranquillity the space of four months elapsed, when, during the Recess of the Committee and Lord Clive's residence at Moorshedabad, the alarming advices arrived that almost all the Officers of the Army had combined, under Articles of the most solemn agreement, to resign their Commissions by a certain day, unless their Batta was restored and the orders of the Company were abrogated. To secure their measures without incurring the penalties of desertion, they fixed on a period when they had no pay in advance, and it was every moment expected our Frontier would be invaded by a large body

of Mahratta Horse; flattering themselves that the necessity for their services at so critical a juncture must infallibly reduce the Board to submission.

8. It was immediately recommended by Lord Clive to the Board, when he transmitted the advices, rather to put all to the risk than suffer the authority of the Council to be insulted. The saving to the Company from the reduction of Batta was now of trifling consideration when compared with the danger of yielding to the menaces of so unprecedented and mutinous an association. To preserve the authority of the President and Council, and crush an attempt that indicated the total subversion of Government, became now the object; in which sentiments the whole Board with one voice concurred with His Lordship. He proceeded, accompanied by General Carnac, to Monghyr, where the first Brigade lay in Cantonment, and happily arrived at the instant when the whole body of Europeans was ripe for revolt. Their Officers, the Lieutenant Colonel, and two or three Subalterns excepted, had to a man withdrawn themselves, and the soldiers, fired with the contagious spirit of mutiny, were on the point of following the example of their superiors, when His Lordship's presence and authority awakened them to a sense of their duty, and probably saved these provinces from all the horrors of rapine, desolation, and military anarchy. The same violence of conduct prevailed amongst the Officers of the 2nd and 3rd Brigades stationed at Allahabad and Patna, insomuch that Colonel Smith, who was posted on the frontiers of Korah, remote from all assistance, and in the very face of a formidable enemy, was totally deserted by his Officers in those lines he had drawn to oppose the irruption of the Mahrattas.

885.—*Zemindars.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 8.]

Without the greatest care being taken to prevent Zemindars from carrying on long balances and defrauding the Government under various pretences, your collections would soon dwindle to a sum insufficient to defray their own charges, the authority of the administration would be despised, and the several Rajas and Zemindars would assume to themselves an independent Power, after they had fleeced the people and fattened upon the spoils of the public.

886.—*Young Civilians at remote stations.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 5, PARA. 7.]

The residence of young Gentlemen at places remote from the inspection of their superiors, hath furnished the means of assuming to themselves an authority prejudicial to the people, detrimental to the revenues, and productive of disputes with the other European Companies with whom it is our inclination to live in the most amicable manner.

887.—*The Governor not to trade.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 5, PARA. 8.]

We deliberated on the properest measures for restraining that pernicious influence which enables a Commercial Governor of this Settlement in a manner to engross in his own hands the whole Trade of the country. The President's Minute entered in our Proceedings of the 19th September very clearly and forcibly expresses the many salutary effects that must arise to the Company and the public from placing the Governor in so affluent and respectable a situation that his attention shall no longer be distracted with the perplexing cares of an extensive trade, nor diverted from the duty of his station by too close an application to ways and means of promoting his own private interest. He is now to renounce all concerns in every branch of commerce. By a solemn oath and penal Bond for £1,50,000 executed in presence of the Mayor's Court, the Company's Servants, and the other inhabitants of the Presidency, he is restricted from every possible method of accumulating wealth, and even from the lending out money at more than the common rate of interest, or otherwise enlarging his fortune, except by the regular and stated appointments of his office. We have not only bound him down by the strongest ties of Laws of Honor and of Conscience, but we have endeavored to remove every temptation to exceed the limits prescribed, by rendering the emoluments of his appointment suitable to the rank he holds in the settlement, the dignity he must necessarily maintain in the eyes of the Natives, and the prospect of independence which he ought to enjoy at the close of a long course of faithful service. We beg to quote the following paragraph of Lord Clive's Minute on the subject:

"Although by these means a Governor will not be able to amass a "Million or half a Million in the space of two or three years, yet he will "acquire a very handsome independency and be in that very situation

"which a man of nice honor and true zeal for the service would wish to "possess. Thus situated he may defy all opposition in Council; he will "have nothing to ask, nothing to propose but what he means for the "advantage of his employers. He may defy the Law, because there can "be no foundation for a Bill of discovery, and he may defy the obloquy "of the world, because there can be nothing censurable in his conduct. "In short, if stability can be insured to such a Government as this, where "riches have been acquired in abundance in a short space of time, by all "ways and means, and by men with or without capacities it must be "effected by a Governor thus restricted."

888.—*The Sipahis loyalty.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 5, PARA. 18.]

The dismission of the Nabob's useless Military rabble and of those Troops kept up by the Rajas and the Phouzdars in their several districts for the purpose of enforcing the collections, have obliged us to raise eight Battalions of independent Sepoys, so that notwithstanding the great number of recruits sent out this year from England, notwithstanding the liberal supply of Troops granted by your Presidency at Fort Saint George, so general was the mortality on board the Transports, so great the loss from the "Falmouth's" misfortune, and so fatal the effects of the late unhealthy season, that we cannot avoid being alarmed att he extraordinary disproportion of numbers between your European and Black Infantry. The very signal instance of fidelity and attachment exhibited by the Sepoys during the late Mutiny of the Officers, might indeed be sufficient to quiet our apprehensions and remove all suspicion of their conduct, if experience the preceding year of their dangerous insolence and turbulent spirit had not evinced the necessity of keeping the Black Troops in awe and subjection.

889.—*Rapacity and misbehaviour of Officials.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, 17TH MAY, PARAS. 2, 44.]

As some of the most important affairs have fallen under your management which have ever occurred since the Company had a being, it is with the utmost satisfaction we observe with what zeal and true regard to the interest of your employers you have pursued such measures

not only with respect to the political system of the Country, but the arduous task of discovering and laying open to our view the infidelity, rapaciousness, and misbehaviour of our servants in general, of all which you may be fully assured we have the highest and most grateful sense.

We direct you to enter into a full discussion of that dark affair—raising the present Nabob to the Subahship, together with the abuses and extortions practised upon the revolution, upon the fullest and most explicit evidence of living witnesses, which you are now able to procure, and that you will transmit their depositions, duly authenticated, together with your own observations after a thorough investigation of the business, to us by the first opportunity, in order that we may give to the Indian Powers a further testimony of our abhorrence and detestation of the ill usage they have received from our servants.

890.—*Seraju Dowla the barrier to northern invasion.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, 17TH MAY, PARAS. 6, 7.]

You will easily judge the great pleasure it gave us to see the war with Souja Dowla ended so conformable to our wishes. We always esteemed the power of that Subah the strongest barrier we could have against the invasions of the Northern Powers, and of the Mahrattas which have so long laid desolate the Northern Provinces, and had the impolitic injudicious views of our late Governor and Council been followed, and the King or Nudjeif Cawn been left in possession of Souja Dowla's Country, we are convinced they would not have had weight and abilities to have supported themselves, and we must either have had their wars to maintain at that immense distance, or they would have been drove back on us and brought the war down to our own Frontiers, or even into our own Provinces. Nothing could so effectually restore that Country to its former state as putting its natural Prince in the full possession of his dominions.

We are determined to make the Provinces of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa the utmost bounds of our political views or possessions.

891.—*The Dewani approved of.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, 17TH MAY, PARAS. 10, 13.]

When we consider that the Barrier of the Country Government was entirely broke down, and every Englishman throughout the Country

armed with an authority that owned no superior, and exercising his power to the oppression of the helpless Natives, who know not whom to obey at such a crisis, we cannot hesitate to approve your obtaining the Dewani for the Company.

We observe the account you give of the office and power of the King's Dewan in former times was, "the collecting of all the revenues, "and after defraying the expenses of the Army and allowing a sufficient "fund for the support of the Nizamut to remit the remainder to Delhi." This description of it is not the office we wish to execute. The experience we have already had in the Province of Burdwan convinces us how unfit an Englsihman is to conduct the collection of the revenues, and follow the subtle Native through all his arts to conceal the real value of his Country, to perplex and to elude the payments. We therefore entirely approve of your preserving the ancient form of Government in the upholding the dignity of the Soubah.

We conceive the office of Dewan should be exercised only in superintending the collection and disposal of the revenues, which office, though vested in the Company, should officially be executed by our Resident at the Durbar, under the control of the Governor and Select Committee, the ordinary bounds of which control should extend to nothing beyond the superintending the collection of the revenues and the receiving the money from the Nabob's treasury to that of the Dewannah or the Company. And this we conceive to be neither difficult nor complicated, for at the annual Poonah, the Government settles with each Zemindar his monthly payments for the ensuing year, so the monthly payments of the whole from the Nabob's Dewan is but the total of the monthly payment of each Zemindar, which must be strictly kept up, and if deficient, the Company must trace what particular Province, Rajah or Zemindar has fallen short in his monthly payments, or if it is necessary to extend the power further, let the annual Poonah, by which we mean the time when every landholder makes his agreement for the ensuing year, be made with the consent of the Dewan or Company. This we conceive to be the whole office of the Dewanny. The administration of Justice, the appointment of Offices, Zemindaries, in short, whatever comes under the denomination of Civil administration, we understand, is to remain in the hands of the Nabob or his Ministers.

892.—*The conduct of certain Officials.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 17TH MAY, PARAS. 11, 15, 21.]

When we look back to the system that Lord Clive and the Gentlemen of the Select Committee found established, it presents to us a Soubah disarmed, with a revenue of almost two millions sterling (for so much seems to have been left, exclusive of our demands on him), at the mercy of our servants, who had adopted an unheard of ruinous principle of an interest distinct from the Company. This principle shewed itself in laying their hands upon every thing they did not deem the Company's property.

In the Province of Burdwan, the Resident and his Council took an annual stipend of nearly eighty thousand Rupees per annum from the Rajah, in addition to the Company's salary. This stands on the Burdwan accounts, and we fear was not the whole, for we apprehend it went further, and that they carried this pernicious principle even to the sharing with the Rajah of all he collected beyond the stipulated Malguzarry, or land revenue, overlooking the point of duty to the Company, to whom properly every thing belonged that was not necessary for the Rajah's support. It has been the principle, too, on which our servants have falsely endeavoured to gloss over the crime of their proceedings on the occasion of the present Soubah, and we fear would have been soon extended to the grasping the greatest share of that part of the Nabob's revenues which was not allotted to the Company. In short, this principle was directly undermining the whole fabric, for whilst the Company were sinking under the burthen of the war, our Servants were enriching themselves from those very funds that ought to have supported the war. But to Lord Clive and our Select Committee, we owe that the Company are at last considered as principals in the advantages as well as dangers.

* The Resident at the Durbar being constantly on the spot, cannot be long a stranger to any abuses in the Government, and is always armed with power to remedy them. It will be his duty to stand between the administration and the encroachments always to be apprehended from the Agents of the Company's Servants, which must first be known to him, and we rely on his fidelity to the Company, to check all such encroachments, and to prevent the oppression of the Natives.

The proceedings of the Select Committee have laid open to us a most complicated scene of corruption, in which we have the unhappiness

to see most of our principal servants involved, Gentlemen who have served us in the highest offices, in whom we placed the greatest confidence, and to whom we had given many marks of our favour, yet neither the ties of honour nor gratitude could controul that unbounded thirst after riches that seems to have prevailed almost over the whole Settlement and threatened a total dissolution of all Government. The principle on which these Gentlemen justify themselves, seems to be, that donation or free gifts are lawful when no interest of the Company's [illegible]rificed to obtain them.

893.—*On farming the Lands.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MAY 17, PARA. 17.]

We observe that when we first took possession of the Grant from Jaffier Ally Khan of the Calcutta lands, we immediately turned out all those men who stood between the Government and the cultivator, and put the farm of the lands up to public sale, in which we make no doubt our servants acted for our interest according to the best of their judgment; but it appears to have been deemed by the Natives an act of oppression and contrary to the customs of Hindoostan: however, it was then a partial evil confined to a small tract of country, and the Company had this to plead in their defence, that their whole Territory lying near Calcutta could easily be kept under the general administration of the Presidency, and this might be very justifiable and very proper for so limited an object.

For after all the various experiments of putting the farms up to public sale, by which means many families seem to have been utterly ruined, of keeping lands in the hands of the Company, which you call Coss, and the various methods that have been tried, we find the collections brought to the Company's credit for the year 1764 are Five Lacs less than what were paid in Alliverdee Khan's time in 1752. There is a passage in Mr. Verelst's letter very alarming and which requires a full explanation: "I was greatly surprised to find on my arrival there "that it had been again exposed to a public sale; however, purchasers "had been only found for about 22 Lacs, so great was the prejudice "taken at the former, and the whole of that very considerably under "the Jummabundy of 1169, excepting the Farms lately held by Messrs. "Johnstone, Hay and Bolts, on which a greater advance was bid."

894.—*On the liberty of carrying on an Inland Trade.*

[COURT'S LETTERS, 17TH MAY, PARAS. 31, 33, 36, 38, 1ST NOVEMBER, PARA. 14.]

We have, in all our letters from the first knowledge we had of our servants being engaged in the Inland Trade, strongly discountenanced and forbad it. We have always treated it as a breach of our orders, a violation of the Phirmaund, and, in a great measure, the cause of the late wars. The amazing sums demanded for restitution in respect of losses sustained in this Trade have opened our eyes to the vast extent to which it has been carried; the oppressions of the unhappy Natives that have attended the carrying it on, and which have pervaded all parts of the Nabob's dominions, have convinced us that a monopoly of the necessaries of life in any hands whatever, more especially in the hands of the English, who are possessed of such an overruling influence, is liable to the greatest abuses.

We had in 1762 some private informations of our servants being engaged in the Inland Trade, but there appeared nothing of it on our Records till a letter from the Nabob Cossim Ally in consultation 18th October 1762, wherein he complains of the conduct of the Company's Servants at Dacca in forcing the Country Merchants to take tobacco and other things above the market price.

With respect to the Company, it is neither consistent with their honour nor their dignity to promote such an exclusive trade, as it is now more immediately our interest and duty to protect and cherish the inhabitants, and to give them no occasion to look on every Englishman as their national enemy; a sentiment, we think, such a monopoly would necessarily suggest; we cannot therefore approve the plan you have sent us for trading in Salt, Betel Nut, and Tobacco, or admit of this trade in any shape whatever, and do hereby confirm our former orders for its entire abolition, and we must here observe to you that we continue in the same opinion which you find expressed in our letters of the 24th December and 19th February last, that every one concerned in this trade, even before receipt of our letter of the 1st June 1764, has been guilty of breach of his Covenant.

The opinions of the first Lawyers in this kingdom confirm our sentiments, and whenever we receive the list of the claims for restitution, we shall then with precision know whom we are to call to account for these illicit practices. We are fully sensible that these innovations and

illegal traffic laid the foundation of all the bloodshed, massacres and confusion which have happened of late years. We cannot suffer ourselves to indulge a thought towards the continuance of them upon any conditions whatsoever.

And here we must enjoin you to have particular regard and attention to the good of the Natives, whose interest and welfare are now becoming our primary care, and we earnestly recommend it to you that you take the most effectual methods to prevent these great necessaries of life from being monopolized by the rich and great, among themselves, and by that means the poor and indigent becoming liable to those grievances and exactions which we mean to prevent our own people from being guilty of.

We are determined to have as few Europeans as possible dispersed about the Country; you are to keep to the spirit of this our resolution as much as possible, for we have the strongest sense of the injuries the Natives have suffered from having Englishmen exercising an authority over them.

895.—*On rising in the Service gradually.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 17TH MAY, PARA. 38.]

With respect to the advantages of the Company's servants, we would have Gentlemen look back to any period before the capture of Calcutta, and turn their attention to our other settlements; they will then find our service never did, nor ever was meant to afford sudden affluence or immense fortunes to every man employed therein. A moderate independence was the reward of many years' service, succession was slow, and the rank of Counsellor was rarely attained before the age of thirty, but donations first, and then this Inland Trade, shortened the path to riches. Donations became the reserved motive for revolutions in the Government, and the monopolies of the necessaries of life were founded on its ruin; we do not mean by this to bring back the state of our service precisely to its former limits; we are very sensible that more important objects now pass under the consideration of our senior servants, which require a greater exertion of their abilities, but then we would have the advantages confined to the higher class of our servants, we would have them the reward of long and faithful services. If our younger servants obtain an early independency they become impatient

of controul, and we lose the benefit of their services when their riper years enable them to be the most useful to us, and stations of the highest importance fall to young men who have neither judgment nor experience to conduct them.

896.—*A perpetual Settlement of doubtful benefit.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 21ST NOVEMBER, PARA. 17.]

Altho' we approve, and have repeatedly recommended, the letting the lands on long leases after the value is nearly ascertained, yet much stronger reasons must be given than have yet appeared before we approve the granting them in perpetuity. We desire you will make the great expences on these collections the object of your particular attention.

897.—*Hugh Watts dismissed.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 21ST NOVEMBER, PARA. 20.]

The argument you offer in extenuation of Mr. Watts' conduct, of his having been corrupted by the example of his predecessors, cannot be admitted by us, and we therefore direct that Mr. Hugh Watts be immediately dismissed from the Company's service, and be sent home by one of the first conveyances that offers.

898.—*Importing Civilians from Madras necessary.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 21ST NOVEMBER, PARA. 22.]

Our letters for these two years past sufficiently testify how entirely we agree with you in your opinion of the corruption and licentiousness of our servants, the horrible abuses committed in the carrying on the Inland Trade, the vast sums extorted for restitution and for donations, the contempt and violation of our most positive orders, and lastly the glaring frauds known and connived at in the collection of the Revenues at Burdwan and Midnapore, amply justify your opinion that all ranks are tainted with it, and we readily conceive the difficulty you were under how to fill up the Council. Peace and tranquillity could not be said to be firmly established while so factious and licentious a spirit prevailed, and you therefore did well to extend the construction of those words to an act so essentially necessary as the calling down the four Gentlemen from Madras.

899.—*On Parliamentary enquiry into Abuses.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 21ST NOVEMBER, PARA. 5.]

We received notice in September last from His Majesty's Ministers that it was probable the state of the Company's affairs would be called for in Parliament this session, when it is likely the unjust and oppressive conduct of our servants will become the object of their attention. We are proceeding in that duty we owe to the Company and to the national honour, in calling those servants who are come home, to an account, who have been guilty of frauds, oppression and extortion; a Bill is already filed in Chancery against Mr. Johnstone, and others are preparing, as well for the sums taken from the young Nabob, as for the frauds committed in the collection of the revenues of Burdwan, Midnapore and Jellasore.

We hope these proceedings will awaken our servants to a sense of their duty, and convince them that how much soever the too frequent practice of such crimes may have familiarized them to their minds, we hold them in abhorrence, and shall constantly bring the actors in them to a public account.

900.—*Lord Clive's tour of the Provinces approved of.*

[COURT'S LETTER, 21ST NOVEMBER.]

We observe with great pleasure your Lordship's intentions of making the tour of the Provinces; we persuade ourselves it will very much tend to conciliate the minds of the people to our administration, and will furnish your Lordship with that local knowledge and experience which is so necessary to understand the separate interests of each province, and to form a judgment of the conduct of the administration at the capital.

901.—*The Nawab's legacy to Lord Clive of* 5 *Lacs.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 2.]

My late most honored Father, venerable at Mecca (whose offences are wiped away) when he was alive, of sound mind, and in the full enjoyment of all his mortal faculties, after having appointed me his successor, gave me repeated orders to the following purport: "Out of the whole money and effects, which I have in my possession, I have

bequeathed the sum of Three Lacs fifty thousand Rupees in money, fifty thousand Rupees in jewels, and one Lac in Gold Mohurs, in all Five Lacs of Rupees in money and effects, to the light of my eyes, the Nabob firm in war, Lord Clive the Hero." Accordingly I have deposited the aforesaid account with my Lady Begum, and you will distribute what remains, after the settlement on your mother the Lady Begum is paid, agreeable to the several proportions which I have allotted.

R. MADDISSON, *Persian Translator.* MIR MUHAMMAD JAFFIR CAWN.

902.—*Nundocomar's Certificate to the Nawab's legacy.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 2.]

The Nabob, the Hero of the Empire, Meer Mahomed Jaffier Khan, deceased, (whose offences are wiped away) fell sick a few days after his return from Calcutta to Moorshedabad, and his illness daily increased upon him. When the Nabob (whose offences are done away) found that he must take his departure from this mortal world, he at that time gave orders to the Nabob Najim-ul Dowlah that out of his whole ready money he should pay to the Nabob Lord Clive, firm in war, the Hero, the sum of Five Lacs of Rupees.

903.—*Dacca—rise of prices near.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 2.]

Received a letter from Chittagong dated the 1st January, acknowledging our letter of the 20th December, with the additional List of Investment to be provided at Chittagong and Luchipore, expressing their apprehensions that they may not be able to complete the lower sortments, as the necessaries of life are so greatly enhanced in their value that the weavers are not compensated for their labour in manufacturing them, and their purchases are greatly interrupted by the large advances made by the French at higher prices.

904.—*Vagrant Europeans at Masulipatam.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 6.]

Letter from the Chief and Council at Masulipatam dated the 9th November, read, advising that in consequence of orders from the President and Council of Fort St. George for securing and sending away

all vagrant Europeans that might be met with in the Circars, they have embarked three for this place on board the "Hermazune."

Agreed on this occasion to write the Gentlemen at Madras that already there are a great number of vagrants in this part of India which we shall take every opportunity of sending home, and to recommend their embarking on the Ships from their Presidency such as may be taken upon the Coast, especially as their coming to Bengal might give them an opportunity of escaping.

905.—*Passengers' bond on board a Ship.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 12.]

Having received your orders to receive sundry persons on board the "Nottingham" as passengers to England on the terms of Charter Party, I think it my duty to acquaint you that I am directed by my Ship's Owners to request, and therefore do hereby request, that you will deliver to me with such passengers an agreement in writing, signed by each respective person so to be carried home, that "they will not directly "or indirectly ask, demand, sue for, or attempt to recover any wages, "gratuity, or pay for any duty, service or assistance they may be called "on to give the Ship in time of need during the whole passage."

906.—*A Lieutenant's punishment.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 26.]

Lieutenant Monsell, of the 2nd Brigade, sends in a letter desiring leave to resign his Commission on account of his ill state of health, and requesting a certificate of his behaviour, and an order for his passage as a Charter Party passenger.

Ordered his letter be entered, and that he be acquainted in answer that his conduct has by no means given us satisfaction, and we therefore cannot grant him the Certificate of his good behaviour, nor the indulgence for his passage.

907.—*European deserters.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 30.]

The Select Committee acquaint the Board they have received information that Messrs. Nicol and Davie, who were reported in Consultation the 2nd instant to have absconded from Calcutta, and sought

protection in Sujah Dowla's Country, carried off with them a quantity of small arms, with which they not only supplied the Country powers, but were actually training up a body of men for their service to our discipline—that the President having wrote Sujah Dowla, in whose Country they were, they have been delivered up by him, and Colonel Sir Robert Barker has received orders for sending them under a guard to Monghyr.

As it is impossible to allow the liberty of the Town here to any persons who have incurred our displeasure and are under orders to repair to Europe, without their having an opportunity of absconding, which we have experienced by so many who have found means lately to elude our orders for embarking for Europe on the Ships of last season.

It is agreed that the President be requested to send directions to Colonel Peach, the Commanding Officer at Monghyr, to keep Messrs. Nicol and Davie in that garrison, allowing them the liberty of the Fort until an opportunity offers for sending them to Europe.

908.—*Omichund's legacies to the Magdalen and Foundling Hospitals.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 30.]

Huzzooramul, Administrator to the estate of the late Omichund, requests he may be indulged with two setts of Bill's on the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for 1,500 Rs. each, one payable to the treasurer of the Foundling Hospital, and one for the same sum to the Magdalen.

Ordered that they be granted to him and that the Sub-Accomptant be directed to prepare them accordingly.

909.—*Increase to the Charity fund.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 29.]

Letter from the Clergymen and Church wardens requesting we will make some addition to the present stipends allowed them for the rent of the Court House by the Hon'ble Company, as such an allowance will enable them to extend their assistance to many indigent inhabitants now in Calcutta who are really objects of charity.

In consequence of the above representation, agreed they be allowed, in addition to the present, a further sum of Arcot Rupees 2,000 per annum.

910.—*Fire at Patna; public buildings to be of brick.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 18.]

Received a letter from Mr. Rumbold, the Chief of Patna, dated the 8th instant, acquainting us that the City of Patna is nearly destroyed by a fire that broke out close to the English Factory, which is entirely consumed, as also the Company's Cottah and every godown belonging either to them or private Merchants. That the fire raged so violently it was with difficulty he saved the Company's books and papers and escaped with the other Gentlemen to the Dutch Factory, and that several parts of the City were still in a blaze and seemed to threaten the destruction of the whole. That having no other place to retire to with the Gentlemen of the Factory but Meer Absets and the Company's Gardens at Bankypore, both lately made the Quarters of the Commander-in-Chief, he purposed taking possession of them.

The late unhappy misfortune at Patna, and the too frequent accidents which have happened to the temporary buildings, composed of Straw and Bamboos, for the reception of our Troops, convince the Board that it will be much more for the interest of the Hon'ble Company to erect all their public buildings, in future, entirely of Brick.

Agreed therefore that we acquaint the Gentlemen at Patna of our having come to the resolution to have the new Cantonments at Dinapoor and Monghyr covered in with Brick-pitched Roofs, for which purpose they are to send us down an estimate of the additional expense that will attend these alterations. And request that they will as soon as possible acquaint us with an exact statement of the damages which the Company have sustained by the fire.

911.—*Portuguese Ships not to trade.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MAY 18.]

Being informed by private advices from Fort St. George that a Portuguese Ship, immediately from Europe, had imported there, and in all probability would soon come down here.

Agreed therefore that a proclamation be issued prohibiting all Company's Servants, Free Merchants or any other persons residing under the Company's protection from trading directly or indirectly with the Captain, Officers or seamen belonging to the said Ship, or assisting her

crew to land or dispose of any part of her Cargo, on any account whatever, under pain of immediate dismission from the Company's Service, withdrawing of the Hon'ble Company's protection, and confiscation of all such Goods as shall be known to have been purchased out of the said Ship.

912.—*Natives offer 10½ Lacs to farm the 24-Pergunnahs.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 3.]

Soveram Bysack and several principal Merchants and other inhabitants attending, were called upon to know on what terms they were willing to become Farmers of the Company's lands for the Bengal year 1174, and having been for months past acquainted with the statements drawn out by the President of the value of the several districts, were asked what terms they were willing to offer. They declared they could offer no more than Ten Lacs and one Rupee for the 24-Pergunnahs, exclusive of Calcutta and the Dees, but that they desired no other advantages but such as former Farmers were allowed; what these were will appear by a copy of a former lease entered after this consultation. The Board observes from the offer made by the Farmers that they cannot possibly have calculated on the several articles of increase mentioned in the President's statement. It is therefore now proposed that they shall have the lands on their own terms, provided they will agree to bring to the Company's credit such articles of increase as shall be pointed out to them and found to be equitable and just, but they declined this reasonable proposal, and the President continuing firm in his opinion that the lands are worth more than the sum offered, it is judged most conducive to the Company's interest to continue the collections in their own hands, under the direction of the Collector General till such time as the real value of the lands are exactly ascertained, in which the Board more readily acquiesce.

913.—*Timber trade on the Gunduck.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 14.]

Received a letter from the Chief at Patna dated the 17th ultimo, acquainting us that he had received advice from the Resident at Bettea of his having despatched to the Presidency twenty-seven fir Timbers of different dimensions, by way of the great river that falls into the Ganges

by Monghyr, the largest of which measure from 60 to 70 feet in length, observing that an estimate of the expense on these few cannot well be ascertained, as several charges attending the first undertaking will not be found necessary in future, and informing us that the timbers provided in the different parts of the hills will shortly come down to Patna by the Gunduck, from whence he will forward them to Calcutta.

914.—*Luckypore Factory washed away.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 1.]

No longer since than 1761, it might have been said to have stood a mile up a creek, locked in and secure both from the strong freshes and the impulse of bores and the S. W. Monsoon, but within this short space the cover it had from the monsoon has been washed away and it is now entirely laid open. The factory was at first built 200 yards from the water side, but when I arrived the S. W. corner was scarcely two yards from the bank, and it would certainly have got into the ditch, if a boat of 1,000 maunds had not been sunk, that keeps by way of a breakwater, and bamboos, &c. been drove in by way of further precaution; this I am in hopes may secure it till the monsoon is broke up, but no art can secure it against another.

915.—*Minute in censure of Mr. Bolts.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 5.]

Resolved unanimously, that we express in the strongest terms to the President our entire approbation of his conduct in the whole course of the proceedings relative to Mr. Bolts, and the keenest resentment of this Board at the insolent and libellous attack on his character and station, as well as the insult offered to our authority, and to this Government, from the factious attempt of an incendiary to sow the seeds of jealousy and distrust in our Councils, to disturb the harmony and confidence that so happily subsist among the several Members of the Board, and to destroy those blessings which the public confessedly enjoy under the mild and upright administration of our Honorable Governor. Resolved, that we support with all our weight and influence the just and necessary exercise of the Governor's authority, and of the authority

of this Board, for the preservation of peace, order and tranquility in this settlement and throughout the Honorable Company's possessions in Bengal; and that we punish to the utmost extent of our power the unparalleled endeavours of Mr. Bolts to sap the foundations of all government, to subvert, by the factious cry of liberty, the principles of subordination, and to loosen all those sacred ties whereby men are united together in society. Resolved, that our former orders to Mr. Bolts for proceeding to England shall be repeated, and that, in case of disobedience to, and contempt of our authority, his person shall be seized and forcibly sent home a prisoner in one of the ships of this season.

916.—*Complaint of Public Works delay.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 20.]

The Select Committee observe with much concern the enormous expense incurred by all public buildings, the very slow progress of the new works and the present untenable and defenceless condition of the new fort, notwithstanding the immense sums expended on the fortifications and buildings.*

917.—*Surman's Garden purchased.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 16.]

Mr. Edward Handle, the owner of Surman's Gardens, makes a tender of the same to the Board for the price of Arcot Rupees ten thousand, which sum has been offered by others who wanted to purchase it; but as the Company have been at the expense of several buildings, and repairs thereon, during the time it has been rented by them, he thinks it his duty not to dispose of it without the Board's approbation.

The Board being of opinion that a spot so situated in regard to the fort and river should not fall into the hands of private persons, do accept of Mr. Handle's proposal.†

* "Resolved, a Member of Council in rotation should visit the works every week, along with the Chief Engineer and Civil Architect, for the correction of the manifold and shameful abuses which for so many years have rendered these works an inexhaustible fund for fraud, artifice, imposition and avarice."

† It was situated near the site of Cooley Bazar.

918.—*New Dock.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 16.]

Agreeable to your orders of the 17th August, we have consulted on the measures necessary for constructing a dock, and in consequence we are of opinion that the ground laying between the Marine House and the old fort admits of the best situation for forming the same, as the banks of the river have not any ways been encroached on that can be perceived, and is the most advantageous from natural causes, arising and required; the ground there likewise admitting of sufficient room for erecting storehouses, workhouses, &c.,—buildings necessary for a dock yard,—within those limits when enclosed, taking it in on a line with the old fort to the eastward.

919.—*Difficulty of getting Coolies for the Fort.*

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 20.]

The want of coolies for carrying on the works being much complained of by the Chief Engineer, and the Buxey informing us that, notwithstanding repeated examples made by the Duffadars, they still persist that they are unable to comply with their engagements, as the coolies employed by the contractors received at the rate of three rupees per month, whereas those paid by the Company have no more than two rupees twelve annas. We beg leave to offer this to your consideration, that some measures may be adopted and enforced by the influence of your Board for putting all coolies employed in the fort on an equality of pay.

920.—*Chunam Lease: seizing boatmen.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 21.]

The Committee of works send in a letter acquainting us that they have reason to imagine the chunam from Sylhet may be provided by contract on much cheaper terms and in great quantities, as well as of a much superior quality to that sent from thence by the Government's people; besides which advantages, the inhabitants of that part of the country through which the boats pass will be relieved from great oppression, as they are at present seized upon by the Government's people to serve as dandies on half pay; and, as they consequently take every

opportunity of abandoning the boats, the despatches are not only tedious in their progress, but seldom arrive at Calcutta without great loss or deficiencies. Recommending therefore that the plan of contracting may be adopted and orders sent the gentlemen at Dacca to receive proposals.

921.—*State of the Calcutta Jails.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 21.]

The zemindar sends in two letters, the first dated the 5th instant, acquainting us that he has visited the prisons in which the criminals are confined by orders of his Court, one of which, situated in Loll Bazar, is a very clean wholesome place, only wants a separate apartment for the women; the other, in Burra Bazar, he represents as a confined place, and must occasion much sickness; but as there is room for all the prisoners in the first mentioned, he has ordered them thither, which prison will hold from 4 to 500, and the number now confined is only 220; and, as he imagines the zemindars, under whose care they are, do not give them the full allowance of cowries for their diet, he has ordered an European overseer, at 10 rupees per month, to inspect the prison every morning and see that the criminals receive their proper allowance.

922.—*Factious, insubordinate conduct of the young men.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 4, PARAS. 3, 4, 5.]

The turbulent, factious conduct of these young men (of the Civil Service, Calcutta) is of so alarming a nature, that we are determined to quell it, and if they cannot be brought to a sense of their duty, they are unworthy our service, and must not be suffered to continue in India.

There is something so subversive of all order and good government in such young men making themselves judges of the conduct of their superiors, and their combination to insult them is of so atrocious a nature, so hurtful to the reputation of our Government in the eyes of the Natives, and, should the same factious spirit spread itself to the Army, the consequences to be apprehended so fatal, that we think the existence of the Company almost depends on your exerting your authority on this occasion.

We read with extreme regret your Lordship's intentions to leave Bengal the ensuing season, the more so as an infirm state of health and the disagreeable circumstances that have attended your administration are the occasions of it; we do not wonder that the difficulties you had

to encounter from the interested opposition of almost the whole body of our servants should have impaired your health, but we observe with pleasure your public spirited measures meet with no further opposition from the Council since the Madras gentlemen have taken their seats at the Board.

923.—*Treatment of Natives.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 4, PARA. 14.]

Although Lord Clive and the Committee have ever since their arrival been so strenuous in their endeavours to correct the many abuses committed by our servants over the Natives, we are sorry to see by Mahomed Reza Khan's complaint, entered on your proceedings of 19th February, that the multiplicity of the English gomastahs, their oppressive practice of Burjaut, and the protection they give to the Government's people are still so universal.

924.—*Against an Aggressive Policy.*

[COURT'S LETTER, MARCH 4, PARA. 3.]

Firmly persuaded as we are that every step beyond the Caramnassa, except in a defensive war, will lead to the irretrievable ruin of our affairs, it is with great pleasure we observe your strong opposition to every measure that tends to the marching our troops with the King to Delhi. If we pass these bounds, we shall be led on from one acquisition to another, till we shall find no security but in the subjection of the whole, which, by dividing our force, would lose us the whole, and end in our extirpation from Hindoostan.

925.—*The Mahratta Chaut. Orissa.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 20, PARA. 8.]

We have paid much attention to your negociations with Janoojee for settling the Chout, on the terms agreed, between the Mahrattas and Ally Verd Khan. We think it both equity and sound policy to pay them their Chout; and shall much approve it, if it can be done on the terms you mention of their ceding to us their possessions in Orissa, which would join our Bengal possessions to the Circars, and would afford us the means of preventing any hostile attempts of any European enemy who might land in that part of Orissa.

926.—*The Afghans.*

[COURT'S LETTER, NOVEMBER 20, PARA. 15.]

Our final sentiments are, that we have no occasion to take any measures against the Afghan's King if it should appear he comes only to raise contributions, but if he proceeds to the eastward of Delhi to make an attack on your allies, or threatens the peace of Bengal, you will concert such measures with Sujah Dowla as may appear best adapted for your mutual defence; always observing to keep within the bounds of a defensive war.

From what appears in your proceedings, we think we discern too great an aptness to confederacies or alliances with the Indian Powers; on which occasion we must give it you, as a general sentiment, that perfidy is too much the characteristic of Indian Princes for us to rely on any security with them.

927.—*Sipahis will not be confined to Barracks.*

[LETTERS TO COURT, JANUARY 20, PARA. 16.]

As we find by experience the sepoys will not be confined to barracks, we have ordered the cantonments at Barrackpore and Berhampore to be completed only for the Europeans, which will be attended with a very considerable saving.

928.—*Calcutta Annual Census. Vagrants.*

[LETTER TO COURT, JANUARY 20, PARA. 25.]

A list of the inhabitants residing at Calcutta, alphabetically arranged, waits on you in the packet, and shall be constantly sent in future, agreeable to your directions.

This Settlement has for a long time been infested with a number of vagabonds, who have found means to get out of England, or of absconding from the Europe ships; we have caused several of them to be apprehended, and shall take every opportunity of sending them out of India.

929.—*Rennel appointed to the Survey.*

[LETTER TO COURT, MARCH 30, PARA. 17.]

So much depends upon accurate surveys, both in military operations and in coming at a true knowledge of the value of your possessions, that we have employed everybody on this service who could be spared and were capable of it. But as the work must ever be imperfect while it is in separate and unconnected plans, we have appointed Captain Rennel, a young man of distinguished merit in this branch, Surveyor General, and directed him to form one general chart from those already made, and such as are now on hand as they can be collected in. This, though attended with great labour, does not prevent his prosecuting his own surveys, the fatigue of which, with the desperate wounds he has lately received in one of them, have already left him but a shattered constitution. This consideration, and his being deprived of every means of advantage while he is thus continually moving up and down a country unexplored by Europeans, to the utmost risk of his life, we hope will justify us for increasing his salary to Rs. 300 per month, which indeed may be considered as only a just reward for past services and sufferings. We beg leave to recommend it as a measure well worth your attention, the keeping your Corps of Engineers constantly supplied with young gentlemen properly instructed in that particular branch.

930.—*Bricks* 240 *Lacs by Contract.*

[LETTER TO COURT, MARCH 30, PARA. 25.]

In consequence of the directions contained in your letter of the 24th December 1765, the management of the Company's brick kilns has been transferred from the Chief Engineer to the Committee of Works, who judged it would be most for your interest to be supplied with bricks by contract; in this they have succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations, having concluded a contract with Messrs. Randall and Achison to be supplied by the 30th of June 1768 with 240 lacs of bricks, at 5-8, which they represent will be attended with a saving to the Hon'ble Company of nearly a lac of rupees. The contractors, in consideration of their providing them on such reasonable terms, are, under certain restrictions, to have the exclusive privilege of supplying the inhabitants with this article.

931.—*The Mayor's Court independant.*

[LETTER TO COURT, MARCH 30, PARA. 34.]

We received intimation from the President and Council at Fort Marlboro' that Mr. William Atkinson, one of your servants at that Presidency, had relinquished the service on account of his health, and embarking on board a ship for China, under pretence of returning to England, from thence had come to Bengal. Upon enquiry we found that Mr. Atkinson had been employed as an attorney in the Mayor's Court here, who acknowledged the circumstances alleged against him by the gentlemen at Fort Marlboro'. This unwarrantable conduct of Mr. Atkinson has been aggravated by his neglecting to obey our repeated orders for repairing to England by one of the ships of this season, but we shall take care to enforce them in a more effectual manner by the return of next year's shipping, notwithstanding the Mayor's Court now affords him protection by not complying with our desire to dismiss him from their Court.

932.—*Touching at Joanna.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 14, PARA. 6.]

In consequence of the new paragraph in the instructions to the commanders of your outward bound ships, forbidding them to touch at Joanna, we called upon Captain Fasham Naure of the *Lord Holland*, and George Thomson of the *Calcutta*, who, we were advised, had put into that port, to assign their reasons for such deviation from your orders; the former alleged that being in want of water and provisions he judged it absolutely necessary to call there.

933.—*Supply of Medicine urgently needed.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 14, PARA. 19.]

We take the liberty to repeat the earnest request we made to you in the 23rd paragraph of our letter by the *Cruttenden*, under date the 28th November last, for an ample supply of medicines, an article for which we have been this season in the greatest distress imaginable, having received none before the *Northington's* arrival. To this we must in some measure impute the great mortality we have lately had here as well as in the army. As your early despatched ships generally

arrive with us in the commencement of the unhealthy season, permit us to entreat you to send a part of your supplies on them, and in general that the whole may be distributed as equally as possible on the ships of the season; medicines will at such a time tend greatly to preserve the lives of your servants and the other inhabitants of this Settlement.

934.—*Firs from the Morung.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 14, PARA. 23.]

The Chief and Council at Patna acquaint us that Mr. Golding, your Resident at Bettea, is exerting his utmost diligence in the provision of firs, and that he has already procured and despatched several to us, measuring from 60 to 70 feet in length. When they arrive here we shall be careful to have them properly examined, and musters thereof forwarded by the earliest conveyance for your inspection; and should we find them serviceable and of a good quality, we shall prosecute the business with all the frugality it will admit of.

Mr. Richard Barwell having tendered to us some firs he procured from the Morung Country, which, upon examination, being reported fit for service, we purchased them at the rate of 30 Arcot rupees each. Samples of these are now forwarded to you on this ship.

935.—*Great Mortality.*

[LETTER TO COURT, SEPTEMBER 14, PARA. 40, 41.]

We are extremely sorry to acquaint you that the last hot season has proved fatal to no less than 13 of your covenanted servants, viz., the Revd. Mr. Thos. Blomer, Chaplain; Mr. John Wood, Junr Merchant; Mr. Samuel Bartholomew Case, Factor; Messrs. Thos. Ridley, William Weston, James Longford Whyte, John Lloyd Booth, Francis Stoddard, William Nixon, Samuel Mitchell, William Mitchell, John Nicholson and William Howitt, writers.

The malignancy of the season did not confine itself to the presidency, but extended its baneful influence over all the country, most of the subordinates felt its dreadful effects, nor did any of the brigades escape. The general return of the troops will inform you how many gallant men, both officers and soldiers, fell untimely sacrifices to its fury.

936.—*Surman's Gardens.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 10, PARA. 49.]

The Owner of Surman's Gardens having acquainted us he had an opportunity of disposing of that ground for ten thousand rupees, but as they might be useful to the Company he begged leave to make us the first offer, we readily embraced the proposal, as we had long since judged it improper that a place so situated in regard to the fort and river should remain in the hands of private persons.

937.—*Writers to wear plain clothes.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 10, PARA. 57.]

The Committee of Inspection having considered with much attention your orders concerning the junior servants in your letter of the 4th March, proposed the following Regulations to be made in consequence, *viz.*:—

First.—With respect to the servants necessary to be kept by a writer without a family, the Committee are of opinion that he should be allowed two and a cook, one for the immediate care of his house and charge of his effects, and another to attend him when he goes out, or to assist him in the charge of his effects and house, in case of sickness to the other.

Second.—It is recommended that an order be issued that no writer shall be allowed to keep a horse without the express permission of the Governor, or be permitted either of himself or jointly with others to keep a garden house.

Third.—It is further recommended that the writers be enjoined to wear no other than plain clothes.

These regulations we have approved and are determined shall be strictly adhered to; indeed the general good behaviour of the servants for some time past, and the order of decorum they at present observe, gives us no room to doubt our orders in all points being implicitly obeyed without the necessity of enforcing them by severity.

With respect to palankeens, we are thoroughly convinced that they are absolutely necessary for the preservation of the Writers' health in this intemperate climate, and have therefore taken the liberty to recede from your orders regarding them.

938.—*Mr. Bolts' behaviour.*

[LETTER TO COURT, DECEMBER 10, PARA. 75.]

We are now come to a subject which calls for your most serious consideration, it relates to the conduct of Mr. William Bolts, lately in your service, and we think it proper to introduce it under this head as it requires a full exertion of the privileges granted in the Royal Charter to you, and delegated to your representatives in India, to resent in a proper manner the insult given to our Government in the person of our President, and the daring attempt, not only to lessen our influence in the country, whereby your interest would infallibly suffer, but also to destroy that harmony which now so happily prevails in your Councils. These purposes, so unnatural to a British subject who has acquired an opulent fortune in your service, Mr. Bolts attempted to effect by personal addresses to our Board, and secret correspondences carried on through the means of Armenian Agents at the Courts of Sujah Dowla and of other Princes.

We acquainted you in our last letter that, in consequence of the resolution taken by the Select Committee regarding Mr. Bolts, we had sent him positive orders to return to Europe this season. Some time after, we received a long letter from Chinsurah, at which place he frequently resided for some time past, informing us, with much freedom of style, that if we would take his concerns and those of his constituents off his hands he would then comply with our directions. The insolence of his reply not only induced us to repeat our orders, but, on his return to town, to forbid his quitting the colony until the time for his embarkation arrived. In defiance of which he immediately withdrew from the Presidency, and returned to Chinsurah, from whence he sent us a most insulting letter reflecting upon the character of our President, and of several of the Members of our Board. This was accompanied by a long address to you, the absurdity and malice of which is too evident to require any strictures from us. We shall therefore forward it without remarks in the packet. The measures we had recourse to on this occasion were these; first, unanimously to assure the President that we approved of the whole of his conduct during the course of his proceedings in regard to Mr. Bolts, and that we entertained the warmest resentment against Mr. Bolts for presuming upon so libellous and unjust an attack upon the character of our Governor; and next, to determine on our repeating our peremptory orders for him to proceed to Europe

without delay, with which if he refuses compliance we shall seize him by force, and send him prisoner on one of the ships of this season. The expediency of fulfilling this resolution becomes still more evident from the intelligence we have since received of his informing Monsr. Gentil, a Frenchman at the Court of Sujah Dowla, by letter, that the Company's affairs in Europe are in the utmost confusion, and that his associate, Mr. Johnstone, as he terms him, would be appointed Governor on the part of His Majesty. An attested copy of this letter appears in our Consultations, and the original is now in the hands of Colonel Smith; several other letters to different people in power at the Hindostan Courts, of this tendency, have been seen.

939.—*On Records being kept carefully.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 8.]

Ordered that the regulation established in the office of the Select Committee for not permitting any books or papers to be taken out of the office, except by the Governor or Secretary, be observed also with respect to the proceedings of the Council.

940.—*Rennell, Surveyor General.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 8.]

Mr. James Rennell having, in the surveys which have lately been carried on under his direction, given sufficient proofs of his abilities and assiduity in that branch, which may prove of great consequence to the Company's possessions under this Presidency,—It is agreed that he be appointed Surveyor General, with the rank of Captain, and a salary of Rs. 300 per month, in consideration of his merit and the labour of that employ.*

941.—*Clive on Calcutta lands; Public Works; Harmony.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JANUARY 19.]

With regard to the Company's own, or Calcutta lands, I have but too much reason to believe that great injustice has been done to the Company in the collections

* Rennell is regarded as the Herodotus of Indian Geography and Surveys.

of those revenues. The Select Committee had in consideration a thorough enquiry into their nature and value, but could not obtain the necessary insight, nor detect the frauds committed, until the expiration of the term for which the lands were rented to the late farmers, which was on the 1st November last. These lands now come under the department of this Board, and your utmost endeavours will not, I trust, be wanting to ascertain their real value. If the gentlemen who formerly parcelled out the pergunnahs amongst themselves did not acquire large advantages, it is certain that the servants acting under them did; for I am well informed that the banians of those gentlemen, as well as others, hold lands at the rate of 8 to 12 annas per beegah, while other tenants pay from Rs. 2-4 to 2-12. From the best information I can get, I find that the Calcutta lands may in a short time be made capable of yielding to the Company between fourteen and fifteen lakhs of rupees per annum. Should that be the case, how reprehensible is the conduct of those gentlemen who so shamefully neglected the interest of their employers.

I cannot avoid remonstrating most strenuously against the present method of carrying on the new works, and indeed all public buildings; a method big with many evils, and which, if continued, must bring destruction upon the Company, for I am convinced the fortifications will not, in the manner they have hitherto been conducted, be completely finished so long as any money remains in the treasury. The people are in fact paid for idling away their time and standing still, instead of working; nor is it likely they will become assiduous, unless you can encourage them to work by contract. If some means be not speedily devised to make the business done adequate to the money paid, I think the enormous expense should be stopped and the fort remain in its present state.

If disputes or dissensions should ever unhappily arise, let them terminate with the business at the Board; suffer them not to transpire throughout the Settlement, nor to appear anywhere but upon the books of your consultations. Be assured that, by these means, much of the real dignity of your stations will be preserved, and affairs of moment be conducted with coolness, candour and decorum.

942.—*Lord Clive's Charges*

Dr. *'Expenses general of*

		Rs. A. P.
1765 May ...	To travelling expenses from Europe—	
	The amount of expenses of my voyage, for passage money, expenses at the different ports until my arrival in Calcutta, over and above the sum of £ st. 3,000 paid to me for that purpose by the Hon'ble Company	73,480 14 4
	To Charges General—	
	The amount of my general expenses from time of my arrival until the 31st December 1766	99,629 12 0
	To Table Expenses—	
	The amount of the expenses of my table from the time of my arrival in Bengal until the 31st December 1766	97,642 1 8
	To wearing apparel—	
	The amount expenses for cloaths, linnen, &c., from the time of my arrival in Bengal until the 31st December 1766	16,987 4 7
	To account salary—	
	For allowances to my Secretary, Assistants, Steward, and others employed under me, from the time of my arrival in Bengal until the 31st December 1766	19,722 11 4
September ...	To account Nazeranny—	
	Paid charges for maintaining the 5 elephants from the time of my receiving them as Nazers to their day of sale this month	941 14 0
	To Jaghire account—	
	For loss in exchange on my Jaghire remittances, they having been detained by the Hon'ble Company, which occasioned the following loss on the monies I paid into the Dutch Treasury at Chinsura for 5 sets of bills of exchange, drawn by the Director and Council there on their Company in Europe in my favor in December 1765 ... ... Rs. A. P. 4,64,000 0 0	
	Deduct the amount of my bills on my Attornies in England in favor of the estate of Thomas Amphlett, deceased, being a part concern therein 91,766 5 4	
	3,72,233 10 8	
	Loss thereon by this remittance 2¼ per cent.	8,375 4 1
1766 December ...	To Dead Stock—	
	For the following rate given to the Dutch Governor at the Cape of Good Hope in January 1765, *viz.*:— oz. dwt.	
	2 Small Tureens and covers, wt. 148 14	
	2 Cruet frames and covers „ 53 8	
	1 Large Salver „ 60 2	
	262 4	

my Voyage to India.—(Continued.) CR.

					Rs. A. P.
December 1765 ...	Received of Rajah Tiluck Chund for a palanquin given me by Mahomed Ally Khan at Madras ... ... At. Rs.		3,000 0 0		
	Batta 8 per cent. ...		240 0 0		
				3,240 0 0	
1766 January ...	Received for sundry jewels, &c.		7,326 0 0		
	Ditto for 1 knife or pishcolz	3,500 0 0			
	1 round palanquin	2,500 0 0			
	Sunt. Rs.	6,000 0 0			
	Batta 11 per cent.	660 0 0			
			6,660 0 0		
				13,986 0 0	
„ March ...	Received for 4 horses sold, At. Rs. 1,600 is C. Rs.		1,728 0 0		
	Ditto for 6 ps. brocades or kincoffs 300		324 0 0		
				2,052 0 0	
„ July ...	Received account Roylsea ... ... At. Rs.	3,000 0 0			
	Ditto account Nazer „	5,500 0 0			
	Ditto account Poona „	8,800 0 0			
	Ditto from sundries „	5,856 0 0			
			23,156 0 0		
	Gold mohurs ... 950				
	Deduct silver 50				
	900 at 14-10-3 each is At. Rs.	13,170 0 0			
	Chequins 5 at 5	25 0 0			
	Shawls ... 18 } sold for	2,600 0 0			
	Kincobs ... 19 }				
			15,795 0 0		
	At. Rs.		38,951 0 0		
	Batta 8 per cent.		3,116 1 3		
				42,067 1 3	
	Received for 3 horses sold, At. Rs. 2,200 is ... ... C. Rs.		2,376 0 0		
	Ditto for 7 elephants, ditto ... „		17,160 0 0		
				19,536 0 0	
„ October ...	Received for the sales of Japan lackware Nazers from the Dutch			1,110 0 0	
				1,91,135 3 9	
	Received from the King and Shujah Dowlah, and intended to be kept in my own family, amount to C. Rs. 13,230, viz.:—				
	58 pearls ... ... at At. Rs. 125 each is		7,250 0 0		
	1 string ditto with jewel and culgee ...		1,000 0 0		
	6 small rubies		1,000 0 0		
	Sundry jewels for dresses		3,000 0 0		
	At. Rs.		12,250 0 0		
	Batta 8 per cent.		980 0 0		
			13,230 0 0		

Dr. *Expenses General of*

		Rs. A. P.
1766 December...	Brought over, Current Rs. ...	3,33,895 7 2
	Current Rs. ...	3,33,895 7 2

Fort William:
December the 31st, 1766.

on his Expedition to India.

my Voyage to India.

Cr.

1765 ...	By Travelling charges from Europe—					
	For amount of monies lent by me to sundry gentlemen accompanying me in my voyage and repaid me since my arrival in Bengal ...					1,171 10 6
	By Company's allowances—					
	Received of the Buxey, for my diet money from May 1765 to December 1766					85,714 6 0
„ June ...	By account salary—					
	Received back from Mr. Phillpott an advance of wages, At. Rs. 188 is Current Rs.					203 0 0
„ June ...	By account Nazeranny—					
	Received for 30 pieces Muslin given me and sold				972 0 0	
„ September ...	Ditto for the following Nazer on my arrival in Calcutta and on my journey to Benares from June to the 7th of this month, when I returned to Calcutta; being for free gifts on introduction and permission for departure on my several interviews with the different Subahs, Rajahs, Zemindars and others, from Rs. 5 and upwards, but no one exceeding four thousand rupees, Silver Rs.			42,643 0 0		
	Batta 8 per cent. ...			3,411 7 0		
				46,054 7 0		
	Received for the following Nazers sold—					
	Gold Mohurs from sundry people, 1077 at 15-2-9 is			16,340 0 0		
	5 Elephants ... Patna Rs.		17,000 0 0			
	Red cloth ... „		360 0 0			
	Dacca cloth ... „		2,850 0 0			
			20,210 0 0			
	Batta 9½ per cent. ...		1,869 10 9			
				22,079 10 9		
	3 Horses sold ... At. Rs. 600 is ...			648 0 0		
					85,122 2 6	
„ October ...	For the following jewels received as Nazers and sold:—					
	A diamond ring ... At. Rs.		1,600 0 0			
	A ditto		1,000 0 0			
	22 diamond drops		10,000 0 0			
	A ruby ring		1,000 0 0			
	103 loose pearls		2,600 0 0			
				16,200 0 0		
	Batta 8 per cent. ...			1,296 0 0		
					17,496 0 0	
„ November ...	Received for the following Nazers, sold—					
	Bastard Rubies—216 ruttys at 3 p. ...			648 0 0		
	Large emeralds 96					
	Small ditto 22—118 do. at 2			236 0 0		
	1 seer hand peach			1,000 0 0		
	1 knob of diamonds			300 0 0		
	1 ditto			250 0 0		
	1 ditto			300 0 0		
	1 seer hand peach			200 0 0		
	2 culqhees			600 0 0		
	1 seer hand peach			300 0 0		
	1 diamond button			1,000 0 0		
	72 pearls ... ... at C. Rs. 10 each			720 0 0		
					5,554 0 0	

DR. *Expenses General of*

		Rs. A. P.
1766 December.	1 Large Salver given to Mr. Vernet, the Dutch Governor at Chinsura, wt. ... ... oz. dwt. 168 12	
	oz. 430 16 is Sa. wt. ... 1,155 3 6	
	At Re. 1-10 per Sa. wt. is Sicca Rs. ... 1,677 3 9	
	Batta 16 per cent ... 300 5 9	2,177 9 6
	To balance of this account of expenses general—	
	Now given to Mr. Edward Phillpot for his good and faithful services to me	14,928 15 8
	Carried over, Current Rs.	3,33,895 7 2

my Voyage to India.—(Continued.) CR.

					Rs. A. P.
1766 October ...	Received from Nobokissen for 10 horses sold him	3,000 0 0			
	Ditto for the following Nazer jewels and drosses sold, *viz.*:—				
	Sundry dresses, small jewels and pearls ...	3,000 0 0			
	1 palanquin received from the Nabob of Muxadabad	3,000 0 0			
	1 ditto ditto from the Nabob of Arcot ...	1,500 0 0			
		10,500 0 0			
	Batta 8 per cent.	840 0 0			2,02,475 3 9
			11,340 0 0		
„ October ...	By table expenses—				16,862 12 3
	For the amount of what has been repaid mo'on.that account for public days, &c., from the Buxeycannah				
	By Governor's duties—				
	Received from the Mint, and on coral consignments and on freight goods from the time of my arrival in Bengal until the 31st December 1766				25,435 6 7
	By charges general—				
	Received for sundries		1,609 0 11		
	Ditto of Hugh Watts, Esq., Collector, the amount of expenses attending on inspection into the Calcutta land for April last...	392 8 0			
	Batta 8 per cent.	31 6 5			
			423 14 5		2,032 15 4
				Current Rs.	3,33,805 7 2

Errors Excepted.

(Sd.), CLIVE.

943.—*Advances to Farmers for Cultivation.*

[PROCEEDINGS, FEBRUARY 2.]

Agreed that we write to the Resident at Midnapore, observing to him that it will be necessary for such advances to be made to the farmers as may enable them to go on with the cultivation of the lands, but that the rate of interest for such advances must never exceed 12 per cent., agreeably to the positive orders lately received from the Company; and that unless other means are found of supplying them at that rate, the money must be advanced out of the Company's cash.

944.—*French charge against the Hugly Thanadar.*

[PROCEEDINGS, MARCH 30.]

To the President.

We have great complaints to make against the Phousdar of Hooghly since the departure of Mr. Law. You know, gentlemen, that the European nations in Bengal have never been obliged to deliver to the Moorish Government such of their habitants who are pursued, because it would be giving them up to be victims to tyranny and injustice. The Phousdar requires that we should deliver up to him one of our habitants, an Armenian, Coja Mirza by name, on account of an affair he had at least 18 years ago with a Moor merchant called Mirmoussa. This Coja Mirza has already been horribly treated on that account at Hooghly, and as this man had always lived in our colony to the time that the wars obliged him to leave it, and is since come back, he has claimed the protection of our flag in quality of merchant of our Company, in which he always did and now at present lives. The Phousdar, depending on the consideration and attention due to him, left the examination of the whole matter to arbitrators, and left the choice of these to Mr. Law, promising to abide by their judgement; the arbitrators were chosen from amongst our merchants and the Company's servants, but as their decision did not answer to the Phousdar's expectation, Mr. Law had the condescension to name others, namely Messieurs Chevalier, Tromaget, Delaselle, Delessert and Sinfray. After mature examination, and requiring that the parties should abide by their determination, which Mr. Moussa would not con-

sent to, these last arbitrators gave sentence, a copy of which was given to Coja Mirza, and the Phousdar was informed of the success of the affair; notwithstanding the Phousdar wants to renew the whole, and pretends, contrary to all justice, that we deliver up to him the said Coja Mirza.

CALCUTTA, 24th March. } ROWLAND, SINFRAY, *Deputies from Chandernagore.*

945.—*Straw huts and Rats in Calcutta.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 27.]

Mr. Russell, as Collector General, begs leave to represent to the Board that of late years the street by the river side to the northward of the Custom House has been greatly encroached upon by a number of golahs, little straw huts and boutiques that have been indiscriminately reared.

He would further propose that no golahs whatever should be suffered to remain to the southward of this spot, which will relieve the inhabitants from the apprehensions of fire, and of their houses being entirely undermined by rats.

The straw huts, everywhere dispersed throughout the white town, is another grievance, and an innovation of very late date, which he would also recommend to the consideration of the Board.

946.—*Measurement of the Calcutta lands.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 29.]

The President lays before the Board the following minute:—

I now beg leave to lay before you the result of my long and laborious researches into the Calcutta lands.

By the several accounts taken at different times of the measurement of the 24 Pergunnahs it appears that the whole of the lands amounts to 10,82,543 beegahs 15 cottahs of ground, which has been cultivated, but on account of Charity Lands pretended to be deserted, and others again secreted, not above two-thirds of this measurement have actually paid rents to the Company.

A research into the cause of this deficiency, being well convinced that instead of a decrease there has been a considerable increase of inhabitants on the Company's lands, is what has particularly engaged my time and attention.

On an examination of the Charity Lands, it appears that when the Company received charge of these pergunnahs the total of the lands assigned for this purpose (an account of which was delivered in by the Zemindars themselves)—

	B.	C.	G.
Amounted to	2,17,442	19	8
Since when there has been resumed	14,971	1	0
So that the total of the charity land should stand at ...	2,02,481	18	8

instead of which it has by some means, probably by the villainy of the black servants in office, increased since that time to no less than Beegahs 2,63,702-2-8, by which the Company has been deprived of the annual rent of Beegahs 61,220-4-8, most, if not all, of which has most probably been disposed of amongst the black servants in office, or their dependants.

In the account of these lands, it is said that Beegahs 25,679-13 have been lying uncultivated for a considerable time; as they were originally designed for and appropriated to the immediate maintenance and support of poor people, or to religious purposes, they could be of use only whilst they were cultivated, and ought immediately as they become neglected by the people who had the charge of them, to have been resumed, according to the custom of the country, by the Company. I judge a considerable addition might be made to the revenues by obliging every person to produce the Sunnud by which he is entitled to hold these lands. The amount of the lands allotted to the above charitable purposes, after resuming the Beegahs 61,220-4-8, I think is very considerable, for estimating the Beegahs 2,02,401-18-8 at the medium rent of the other lands, the annual revenue will be no less than Rs. 3,14,638.

The amount of the ryotty lands, or those which are farmed out, appears in the cutcherry books to be Beegahs 5,91,172-9 producing an annual revenue of Rs. 10,12,305-12; there have, moreover, stood under this head Beegahs 29,363-3-12 said to be uncultivated, but from the several examinations made therein, I am of opinion that it is mostly cultivated, and ought to be brought to the immediate credit of the revenue. It also appears that the lands held by the servants in office and their dependants have been estimated at a less rent than they should have been by Beegahs 15,877-5-13, which will likewise be brought to account, as I see no necessity for douceurs where every man employed by the Company receives his monthly allowance, nor can I trace by what authority they hold them at the low rate they have hitherto done.

Under the head of commar, or lands cultivated by contract, there appears to be Beegahs 1,98,305-19-12. The amounts of these lands must ever be uncertain, as the rents being paid in the products of the land, their value depends wholly on the sale of such products. However, estimating them on a medium by what they have hitherto yielded, their rents will amount to Rs. 2,91,842-10-11.

These, together with the batta of rupees, bazzy jumma or collections made in the pergunnah cutcherries, salamies on the weddings and visitation of the Dees, called diderry, farms of tuffauls, salt and wax duties collected in the markets and ghauts, interest on money advanced for cultivation, repairs of dykes and bridges, rents of the collarys, the 15 dees, &c., of Calcutta town, are none of them included in the estima-

tion I have laid before you. They also require a particular scrutiny, as well as the expenses attending the collections; and I am perfectly sensible that many lands are still held at a low unequitable rent, though the intricacies and delays attending these matters have prevented my finding them out.

As it will be impossible to fix the just value of the lands until their measurement and products can be ascertained, I would recommend that as many capable surveyors as could be procured should be employed on this business. They should be directed to form a register of all the ryots; the quantity of land each holds and the usual products, when each ryot might have inserted in his potta the measurement of his lands and the annual or monthly rents he is to pay, this will prevent the impositions of the black servants, or if you farm the lands, any oppressions of the farmers.

FORT WILLIAM,
29*th April* 1767. (Sd.) H. VERELST.

947.—*Dutch complain of English Monopoly of the Weavers.*

[PROCEEDINGS, APRIL 29.]

In Bengal the workmen by your servants are obliged against their will, and thanks to take money and to bind themselves not to work for anybody else but for the English. This, gentlemen, is a fact, which we take for granted, that the greatest part amongst you cannot say that you are ignorant of.

(Sd.) LS. VERNETT,
" MSO. J. G. SINK,
" I. H. ZINNER,
" MOISE. LAFONT,
" JS. MS. ROSS,
" PR. HUMBERT,
" O. W. FALK,
" J. H. DAMINS.

HOOGHLY,
14*th June* 1767.

948.—*Pilot's Survey of Hugly River.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JUNE 25.]

Report of the remarks and observations in sounding the River Hooghly from the 25th May to the 9th of June 1767.

The channels and sands from Calcutta to Fulta are much the same as usual; only, at Fulta the eastern channel is filled up, the western channel remains good and a safe channel, not having less than 16 feet at low water spring tide.

The James and Mary Sand.—We find the best water to be along the eastern shore till we come abreast of Mingo Bibbey's creek, then stand over for the large bluff tree upon the western shore, and carry no less than 18 feet at low water; only observe to give Hooghly point a berth as usual.

The middle ground of Dean's Town or Cowra Hattea has little water upon it, only 4 feet at low water. The pagoda from the pitch of the sand bearing south by east, so we find the channel to be along the eastern shore.

No alterations with the Diamond sand, but remains as usual.

For going out or coming in of Kedgeree finds good water, not having less than 16 feet at low water spring tides.

949.—*Mr. Thackeray's appointment as Cash-keeper.*

[PROCEEDINGS, JULY 11.]

The President acquaints the Board that he is in want of an Assistant under him as cash-keeper. Ordered that Mr. William Makepeace Thackeray be appointed to that office.

950.—*Burdwan Province Cash Accounts.*

DR. *General Cash Account, Burdwan Province.* CR.

To Tagavy and Poolbundee—				By charity—			
Received in part of the advances made on these accounts, *viz*:—				Paid Coja Anwars charity Jagheer	3,693 0 0		
Tagavy	2,910 0 0			Do. do. Peer Baharam	2,036 12 0		
Poolbundee	75,767 0 0					5,729 12 0	
Of the advances for bringing water to the March crop	1,655 0 0			Paid the Rajah's annual present to the shroff's house on opening their new year's books ...		152 0 0	
		80,332 0 0		Ditto the allowance to Bahadur Sing, the son of Dummoodur Sing, late Rajah of Bissenpore for April and May, at 93 per month		186 0 0	
Received as follows for this year to date, *viz*.— From the Buxee Jumma Office for fines and penalties; Sallamys for restoring castes, and permission for digging tanks.		9,981 0 0		The expenses of religious feasts and ceremonies at all the temples throughout the province as per invariable custom		12,755 6 15	
				Charges for forwarding treasure ...	1,260 10 10		
				Treasure bags	265 5 0		
						1,525 15 10	
				Mr. Verelst's bill of expenses as supervisor	2,301 5 0		
				Charges for coolies, bearers, &c., made for sundry gentlemen passing up and down the country	7,031 10 15		
						9,332 15 15	

951.—*Land farmed to wealthy Natives leads to Ryots' oppressions.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 20.]

The Board now taking into consideration the manner in which the Calcutta lands can be disposed of most to the advantage of the Company, and having first considered the offer made by Nubkissen and Gocul to farm the lands, including the town of Calcutta and the Dees, for three years at 13 lacs of rupees per annum on certain conditions entered after; this consultation, after mature deliberation, are unanimously of opinion that Nubkissen's present station gives him so great an influence in the country that the ryots might be alarmed and apprehensive of oppression, and that no native should be trusted with more power than is absolutely necessary; and, of consequence, that it would be highly improper to let the lands to farm to Nubkissen and Gocul on any terms whatever. The Board also observe that, in the conditions on which they are willing to be farmers, there are some clauses which would give them too much power over the ryots, and enable them to make a considerable advantage for themselves. In consequence of these considerations, Nubkissen's and Gocul's proposals were judged inadmissible, and it is agreed to give notice to the several persons proposed by the Committee to have the offer of farming the lands, that we shall be ready to receive proposals from them on the 3rd September.

952.—*Government House repairs; new Hospital.*

[PROCEEDINGS, AUGUST 26.]

The Civil Architect sends in a letter to the Board, acquainting them that, by order of the Governor, he surveyed the whole of the Government House, which he finds in so decayed and ruinous a condition as to require an immediate thorough repair, which he recommends to be carried into execution agreeable to the plan now delivered, as being the best and cheapest method that can be pursued.* He also delivers in a plan of the hospital intended to be built on point Sumatra, together with an estimate of the same, amounting to five lacs of rupees, which calculation is made on a supposition of the buildings being of the very best materials of their kind.†

* This was the Government House on the banks of the river south of the old fort; another was subsequently built on the site of the present one, and the remains of its bath-rooms may be seen in the south-west corner of the Government House compound near the Treasury.

† The plan of an hospital on Point Sumatra was soon after this abandoned.

953.—*The old Fort to be turned into a Custom House.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 18.]

In consequence of the order passed in consultation the 1st May, for converting the old fort into a custom house,—Ordered that the apartments lately occupied by the fort major be appropriated to the use of the custom master,—Ordered also, that the corner rooms in the long row to the eastward be to the use of the surgeons.

954.—*Statistics of the Burdwan Province.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 28.]

The Rajah, however, has fully complied with his last year's agreement for 34½ lacs, which have been remitted to the Calcutta Treasury exclusive of the charges of residency, and also discharged the balances for 1171 and 1172, amounting to 99,704 rupees.

The amount is very great, and the improbability of recovering it no less so, it therefore serves no other purpose than keeping the wretches against whom those balances stand in continual dread of the people in office, or of the oppression of the discharged troops who are paid with assignments upon them, and exact compliance with a lawful but fruitless rigour.

I have sanguine hopes that, even after allowing one lac for losses and bad debts, the Company will receive this year about 37 lacs of rupees.

Of the lands rendered coss last year were some farms to the amount of Rs. 1,43,731-8-1 in the name of Nemochund Seat and some others, who, by his influence in the province as a public officer at that time, had unjustly taken them from the persons that purchased them at the outcry 1172. Nemochund being now no longer in power, these poor people who had been dispossessed were no longer overawed, and they applied to be reinstated upon the terms of their amulnamahs, which they produced in support of their pretensions. Public faith and the honor of our Government were so much concerned in such a violation of public writings, I made it my business to examine their accounts and enquire into their characters; but as there neither appeared balances against them, nor objections to them as individuals to justify such cruel treatment, I reinstated all of them that could renew their security.

It is no less hard upon the ryots, who are now obliged to resort at a great expense from the remotest corner of the province to answer a complaint of perhaps but a few annas value while the cultivation of his lands must lie neglected. The revenue in fact suffers in the end.

Gram-Serenjammee or peons and pykes stationed in every village in the province to assist the farmers in the collections and to watch the villages and the crops on the ground, who are also responsible for all thefts within the village they belonged to 1,54,521 14 0

At the same time that the whole of the Chackeran lands are ordered by the Committee to be resumed, it appears to be their intentions that the proposed reductions of the servants holding those lands should extend only to unnecessary or improper ones; of course those that should be continued as necessary or proper must continue to enjoy their lands as the price of their services, according to the established custom of the country, for no other provision is ordered to be made for them, nor indeed would it be consistent with economy, for it is a known truth that ready money wages will ever by far exceed the value of the lands these poor wretches are contented with, which is generally the worst in the province. A resumption of the whole therefore could not be expected, and it is to be considered only whether what remains is proper or necessary. I shall therefore explain very particularly the number of each class, by which you will be able to judge whether a greater reduction would have been for the interest of the Company, relatively with their own honor and the dignity of the Raja.

18. *2ndly of Tannajaut.*

This class comprehends the Thanadars dispersed throughout the province to protect the roads, holding	44,845	14	0
The Cutwalee of Burdwan Town	2,689	5	0
A set of people stationed on the King's road for the conveniency of travellers by particular order from Court	1,423	8	0
In all, Beegas ...	48,958	7	0

besides which there is a monthly charge of Rs. 2,080-15-15 as diet to the Thanadars.

The duty of a Thanadar is to protect the roads from robbers, and they are responsible for all losses by theft or robbery. They are dispersed throughout the Province, and to them are issued all orders from the head cutcherry that relate to the district of their respective tannas. They have the superintendence of their district and are the executive officers of the cutcherry. They are in short the safeguard of the province, and without them the ryot has no idea of safety of his person or security of his property.

Their present number, after the reduction of 441 that I have made, is 3,252. To reduce these and replace them with a battalion of sepoys, as proposed by the Select Committee,* would not only be subjecting the Company to make good all thefts and robberies, but the whole country to the exactions and oppressions which it is well known sepoys, distributed singly over the province and left their own masters, ever make a practise of.

4th of the Gram Serenjammee.

This class remains entire as it did; I could not venture on reducing any part without the whole country being up in arms, and the farmers being furnished with pleas for deficiencies in their rents or backwardness in paying them. The large number of servants in this class evince in a great degree the necessity of the institu-

* 28th October 1766.

tion, and it is therefore almost unnecessary to expatiate on the nature of their services; however to give you a clear idea of it I will endeavor at an explanation. The servants then are nothing else than cutwals and pykes dispersed in every village in the province, of which there are above 8,500, besides detached parts that are reckoned inferior ones. These people are night watches and are responsible for all thefts in the village where they are stationed. They look after the crop upon the ground as well as after it is cut and laid up, until divided between the farmer and ryot. They it is that summon the ryots to pay their rents to the farmers' gomastahs, they enforce the payment by their authority, and they escort the treasure to the head cutcherry. Upon a computation made from pergunnahs taken indifferently in the different parts of the province, a sketch of which is enclosed, the average proportion to each village is not 3 persons, holding in all 18¾ beegas.

955.—*Stations and Strength of Burdwan Raja's Nagdi Troops.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 28.]

Abstract Return of the Rajah's Nugdee Troops dismissed by Mr. Russell at the Poonea 1174, and their monthly pay.

Places stationed.	Horse.	Foot.	Total.	Pay per month.
				Rs. A. P.
At the Rajah's house	31	.....	31	750 0 0
At Mobabutgur	13	49	62	619 0 0
At Amboah with the Raja's mother ...	7	.....	7	160 0 0
At Amboah with Raja Chutter Sing's 2nd wife	4	.....	4	90 0 0
At Soinparree	10	50	60	481 12 0
At Chundercona	28	112	140	1,528 0 0
At Billabghur	32	192	224	1,692 4 0
At Aroragur	9	43	52	404 0 0
At Ranjegur	10	16	26	373 0 0
At Seirgur	1	6	7	49 0 0
At Jamgong	1	17	18	99 0 0
At Orodh	1	16	17	95 0 0
	147	501	648	6,341 0 0

DR. *Estimated sketch of the Burdwan Revenue and Expenses for the current year* 1174 *or* 1767-68. CR.

To land rents as last year	39,33,912 11 19			By charges Zemindary, *viz* :—			
Deduct annual tuncaws or the Raja's assignments annexed to the Rent Roll by order of the Select Committee, but immediately wrote off again... ...	53,472 12 10			Raja's allowance, 20,550 per month ...	2,46,600 0 0		
	38,80,434 15 9			Ditto for religious feasts, agreeable to original and invariable custom ...	5,240 0 0	2,51,840	0 0
In the accounts of last year the sum of Rs. 23,476-14-12 was admitted as a deduction for loss on the coss lands; part of these lands being now let to farm, a decrease is ascertained of 16,599-7-16; but the rest still continuing coss, whether the balance of the deduction will become a loss this year must remain to be proved in April, that balance is therefore for the present included in the rent	6,877 6 16			Thanadars' diet as last year	36,371 0 0		
		38,87,312	6 5	Deduct reduced 1,072-8-5 per month ...	12,870 0 0	23,501	0 0
Rents of the resumed Chackeran lands, last year's resumption	61,239 12 0			Religious feasts and ceremonies throughout the Province, agreeable to invariable custom		12,749	0 0
This year's	60,045 9 8			Paper, ink, &c., as last year		5,900	0 0
Salamy on 1,047 beegas, now exacted from the Mutsuddies	523 8 0			Dawks within the province		3,689	0 0
		1,21,808	13 8	Charges—Coolies, Bearers, &c., as last year, but which will probably be reduced this year		7,031	10 15
Ouzan batta levied on the rents at different established rates as last year ...	164,447 7 10			By charity as last year		5,729	12 0
Increase computed to arise this year from the Chackeran	7,224 0 0			By losses and bad debts allowed		1,00,000	0 0
		1,71,671	7 10				

956.—*Zemindars to decide Ryots' Law Suits.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 28.]

Mr. Verelst remarks that it never was his intention that the ryots from all parts of the province should, on every trivial complaint, apply to the cutcherry at Burdwan; his orders regarding the pergunnah cutcherry related to such as were established for the collections of the revenues only, not those for the administration of justice. As it is an established custom in all parts of the country for the zemindar or head farmer of the lands to administer justice in their several districts in all cases that are not of very great importance, he left the same to them; how this came to be brought into the cutcherry at Burdwan he knows not, but thinks it is a great grievance to the ryots, which ought to be immediately redressed by orders to the zemindars and farmers to attend to the complaints of their several ryots, or by appointing proper persons to that business as may be found most conducive to the ease, satisfaction and happiness of the ryots.

957.—*Collector's Regulations about Rents and Ryots.*

[PROCEEDINGS, OCTOBER 1.]

The Collector's orders to those that have been proposed to make the collections in the Hon'ble Company's pergunnahs for the year 1767:—

1*st.* You are to proceed to the Pergunnah Muragotcha and use your utmost diligence in collecting the rents, agreeable to the Hustabood now delivered you, and what monies you do collect you are to forward to Calcutta in the same specie you receive it; the articles of increase mentioned in the Hustabood you are to make a strict enquiry into, and what can be collected without injury to the ryots you are to collect and forward to me, and you are to be very particular in giving me an account of the state of your pergunnah; what improvements it will admit of, and what further benefits can accrue to the Company without laying the ryots under any hardships, it being the Company's intention that they should enjoy ease and comfort; you are to be allowed to draw 5 per cent. on the sums you collect, in consideration of all charges and your trouble in making the collections.

2*nd.* You will not suffer any peons belonging to the lenders of monies, &c., to use any hardships towards the borrowers, nor receive any fees from them; and if any lender confines a borrower in his house, such lender and the borrower you are to send to the Collector's Cutcherry.

3*rd.* You will not let the Cawzy or Mufty receive anything from the tenants unlawfully.

4th. The crimes belonging to the Phousdarry, such as thefts, robberies, murders, hidden goods discovered, &c., that may happen in your pergunnah, you are to send the persons accused to Calcutta, with the proofs thereof, and the list of such goods as may be found in these cases.

5th. Such persons that may die without issue, you are to take an inventory of their effects in the presence of the Cormocharries and pikes of the said villages, as also some of the creditable inhabitants, and let the inventory be signed by them as witnesses, with the particulars of such heirs of the deceased as shall be present or living, and forward the same to Calcutta.

6th. Family complaints about any share of property, if under Rs. 100, you may refer the cause to an arbitration, and after the cause is awarded you are to forward the proceedings here; but if the parties are not satisfied by the award of the arbitrators, you are to send the parties to the Collector's cutcherry, and if above Rs. 100 you are to send the parties to Calcutta.

7th. You are not to obey the orders of any other person, but the orders signed and sealed by the Collector General.

8th. Complaints about debts may be decided by you, your Gomastah and two creditable persons, and if the parties are not satisfied therewith, they may appeal to the Collector, the duties thereon you are to receive 5 per cent., and send the proceedings to Calcutta, the interest to be allowed at the rate of 12 per cent., and if it be discovered that the lender of the money received more than the above interest, or benefitted himself by any other means, you are to send the lender and borrower to Calcutta.

9th. Liberty to marry to be granted to the labourer without any fee, the higher class to apply to the Collector for license; a list of marriages to be regularly transmitted to the Collectors.

10th. In disputes about grounds, if any one use force or strikes any person, and the same be proved, such person to be fined Rs. 3, and of less substance Re. 1, and of no substance to be kept one whole day in the stocks.

11th. If any one be falsely accused, you will examine into the affairs and write to the Collector, and such orders as shall be sent you about it, you are to execute accordingly.

12th. Such creeks, water courses, bridges, &c., that want repairs you are to inform the Collector of, and follow such orders as you may receive from him.

958.—*Burdwan Raja's Nagdi Troops.*

[PROCEEDINGS, SEPTEMBER 28.]

Abstract Return of the Rajah's Nugdee troops proposed to be retained, and their monthly pay.

Places stationed.	Horse.	Foot.	Total.	Pay per month.
				Rs. A. P.
At the Raja's house	119	428	547	6,077 4 0
At Amboah with the Rajah's mother ...	20	152	172	1,410 8 0
At Amboah with Raja Chutter Sing's 2nd wife	10	31	41	436 4 0
Saggur depessah-pay, Deputy Mohorees, Peons, &c.	0	79	79	736 0 0
	149	690	839	8,660 0 0

959.—*Expense of travelling from Chittagong to Calcutta.**

[PROCEEDINGS, NOVEMBER 23.]

	£		
To THE HONORABLE COMPANY			Dr.
To Budgerow hire for bringing me from Chittagong at 5 At. Rs. per day, for 19 days, being from the 14th August to the 2nd September 1767	95	0	0
To Tow Boat hire for the Budgerow	36	0	0
To a Pilot from Modipore to Ballegot	12	0	0
To my batty from Chittagong to Calcutta, being 14 days at 8 At. Rs. per day, being from the 20th August to the 2nd September	112	0	0
To 2 Sloops' hire for bringing down my house furniture, &c., from Chittagong to Calcutta	800	0	0
To two Tow Boats for the use of the Two Sloops at 36 At. Rs. each	72	0	0
At. Rs.	1,127	0	0

CALCUTTA,
The 13th November, 1767.

RICHARD DEAN.

* The Board pronounced those charges highly exorbitant, and ordered that Mr. Dean should be paid only his Budgerow hire and batta amounting to Rs. 207.

960.—*Medicines, Price and Class.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 10.]

Experience has convinced us of the defectiveness of former indents, and of the impossibility of procuring them in sufficient quantity by any other means.

We flatter ourselves that this will not appear extraordinary when it is considered that near five thousand Europeans partake yearly of the Hon'ble Company's medicine, besides sepoys and other black people in their service; and when you observe the large advanced price that is given for medicines from private persons, which necessity often obliges us to purchase. We beg leave at the same time to acquaint you that we have struck off from our indent many articles that a course of practice has shown us may be dispensed with, or their uses supplied by others, whereby near 60 articles are retrenched. We have also lessened the quantities of others, when we thought it could be done with propriety.

961.—*State of Calcutta Jails.*

[PROCEEDINGS, DECEMBER 21.]

Agreeably to your orders, I have visited the prisons under my charge; the one in Loll Bazar is very clean and wholesome, only wants a separate apartment for the women to make it completely convenient.

That in Burra Bazar is a confined bad place, and must occasion much sickness, but as there is room in the other for all the prisoners, I have ordered them there; this prison will hold from 4 to 500, and the number confined now is 220, a list of whom is making out. I have great reason to suppose the Jemmidars, under whose care they are, do not give them the full allowance of cowries for their diet, and have therefore ordered an European Overseer at 10 rupees per month to inspect the prisons every morning, and to see that the criminals receive their proper diet, which I hope will meet with your approbation.

I take the liberty to inform you that the regulation of the Committee of Inspection respecting servants has been published 17 days,

yet very few of the European inhabitants have thought proper to send them to be registered, and none of the black, Portuguese or Armenians.

The two assistants who were appointed under the jemmidar to register the servants being removed from Calcutta, I request the favor you will appoint others, as the business of the jemmidaree, clerk of the market and clerk to the justices is too heavy for one assistant.

COURT OF JEMEDARY,
5th December, 1767. } NICHOLAS GRUEBAR.

962.—*Clive on European Vagabonds.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 16.]

To what I have urged in general upon the subject of regulations, I beg leave to add a few words in relation to one particular point. All the Company's servants at the Aurungs, all those at the out-factories, except such as are fixed as the subordinates and are necessarily employed in the silk business, all free merchants must be recalled, and their place of residence confined to Calcutta. Orders for this purpose have already been issued, and the time for their being obeyed is limited. Herein no consideration whatever, scarcely humanity itself, except in any very extraordinary instance, should tempt you to relax; for be assured that, until these regulations take place, the Company cannot be properly said to enjoy their just rights and privileges, nor the natives to be masters of their own property.

Another growing evil which requires a speedy remedy is the number of vagabonds that infest the Presidency, all these must be apprehended and embarked on board ships for Europe without delay. In their native country they may become useful to the public, but in Calcutta they are worse than idlers. Our police is not perfect enough to prevent their being guilty of many outrages, of which I need only mention the oppressing the poor inhabitants, and the retailing of spirituous liquors, which destroy the constitutions and lives of many of our soldiers.

963.—*Nabakissen* recommended by Clive.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 16.]

Lord Clive recommending Nobokissen, Moonshee, to the protection of the Committee,—Resolved that, in consideration of his faithful and diligent services, Nobokissen be appointed the Hon'ble Company's political banian, with a salary annexed of 200 rupees per mensem, the same to commence from this date.

964.—*Nabakissen's Memorial.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 18.]

Your Memorialist, the first time Lord Clive was in Bengal during the Government of the Nabob Surajah Dowlah, was employed and entrusted with all private agreements made between the Nabob Jaffier Ally Khan and His Lordship, also during the war with Cossim Ally Khan, he was from the beginning to the end attending on Major Adams, and executed such service as caused his Lordship, on his return to this country, to take him again into his service, and as his Lordship found him desirous of no other employment than that of the public, and constant and faithful in the discharge of his duty, he was graciously pleased to raise him to great honour.

Before his Lordship's departure for England, believing him to be sufficiently experienced, made him principal banian for the affairs of the Government, and as a further testimony and approbation of his conduct, presented him with an elephant and a medal.

These marks of his Lordship's favour and esteem, together with the countenance he has met with from your Honor by taking him into your service, he has too great reasons to fear, has drawn on him the resentment and jealousy of wicked and envious minds, as the following facts will certainly evince, as they are only calculated to depreciate and wound the man whose good fortune, under the auspices of his Lordship and your Honor, has raised him much above the common and usual advances in life and not as they pretend to punish the guilty.

My enemies have in vain searched for proofs that I raised my fortune by bribery and undue means, in hope that by such a discovery they might have been able to have ruined my character and reputation; disappointed in this, their efforts are now extended to more base and villainous ends; my life is now what they thirst after, and altogether indifferent about the means by which it may be accomplished; for I can at the present prove that two men, the one named Ram Sunar Ghose, the other Nemoo Gangoolee, have, either as principals or employed by others, been tampering with a Brahmin's wife of Calcutta to accuse me of violating her, saying that this was the

* Nabakissen was Clive's Munshi and Persian Secretary, he was the founder of the Sabha Bazar family. This correspondence shows how easily charges can be got up.

most favorable time that could offer, and promised her a sum of money for her compliance; the Brahmin used his utmost endeavours to engage his wife in this wickedness; but happy for me, she absolutaly refused, altho' her life was threatened, to accomplish this design.

The present diabolical accusation against me is as follows:—One Ram, a goldsmith, complained to me that his mother and brother-in-law forcibly withheld his wife from him in their house, and not only refused him admittance to her, but permitted another man to visit her, which circumstance if known, he would be in danger of losing his caste, therefore entreated me, as I had the charge of the caste cutcherry, to call the parties together before me and endeavour to settle the affair. I complied with his request, and, after a hearing, the matter was compromised to the apparent satisfaction of all concerned; but to my great astonishment and surprise, near 20 days after, I found Gocul, a brother-in-law of Ram, had presented a petition to your Honor, complaining that I endeavoured to take his sister by force from his house.

You, Sir, referred the affair to Mr. Floyer, the then zemindar, and directed me to go to him for a clearing up of this matter. I obeyed, and found Mr. Bolts, with Gocul and Kissen, the two brothers-in-law of Ram, there.

Mr. Floyer entered upon the business, when Gocul gave him a paper written in English containing an account of the complaint made against me, which Mr. Bolts declared was a true translation he had made from the Bengali. Mr. Floyer having read it aloud, Gocul swore to and signed it. Mr. Floyer then asked Gocul if he had any witnesses, telling him now is the proper time for their evidence. Gocul replied, his brother Kissen; accordingly Kissen was called in and sworn. Mr. Floyer was desirous of interrogating Kissen, but Mr. Bolts interrupted him by saying Kissen was ready to swear what was contained in the written paper already subscribed and sworn to by Gocul. Upon my requesting Mr. Bolts might not interfere, he bid me hold my tongue, nor desisted till the zemindar ordered us both to be silent; Mr. Floyer then took Kissen's evidence and wrote the particulars with his own hand. Afterwards, I delivered my account, it being read, I swore to and signed it; also my witnesses for the truth of every particular gave their depositions and swore to them.

When it shall be known to your Honor that there is a very essential difference in the depositions given by Gocul and Kissen, notwithstanding they live in the same house, and had concerted the whole affair together, and that Kissen, at the instigation of Mr. Bolts, would have signed and sworn to the deposition given by his brother Gocul, had he not been prevented by my protesting against such proceedings as unfair; also that the tenor of the petition presented to you, Hon'ble Sir, and the written depositions delivered to Mr. Floyer are very far from agreeing with the pretended facts alleged against me, it surely will, I hope, be a sufficient proof of my innocence. But should this prove insufficient for your satisfaction, I am ready and willing at any time to subscribe to the most solemn oath, according to the rules and customs of my religion, that I never, to the best of my knowledge, from the hour of my birth to this day spoke with, saw, or have had any connection with either of the three sisters of Gocul and Kissen; nor did I know that there were such persons in being till this affair was trumped up against me.

One thing more I beg leave to observe, that it should have been the particular business of the woman injured to have immediately complained and applied for justice, as the offence was of so heinous a nature, and not have done it by my avowed enemy, Mr. Bolts; nor have suffered so much time to elapse, contrary to the method in such cases; nor do I as yet know positively who the woman is that is said to be injured by me.

965.—*Ramnat Das' Petition against Nabakissen.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 18.]

The grievance complained of is my having the amount of thirty-six thousand rupees extortionally exacted and taken from me by Nobokissen, Moonshee, during my late confinement, *ex colore officii*. Availing himself of my ignorance of the English laws and customs, he used to visit me in my confinement, and there, by threats and under various scandalous, villainous and false pretences, did demand and receive from me—

In the month of Ograhn a Ring, value			Rs. 14,200
„ „ Pous ...	500	Gold Mohurs.	
„ „ Choitro ...	400	ditto.	
„ „ Bhadro ...	500	ditto.	
	1,400, value		„ 20,000
With 2 ps. Bootidars and sundry other things, given by his order to his people, value			„ 2,000
			Rs. 36,200

The pretences he made use of were, that he would preserve me or get me excused from taking my oath on the Ganges water before the Select Committee, that I might have the greater latitude for what I was to declare verbally; that he would procure my releasement; that he would give me Khillut and send me away again Dewan to Malda; and that he would save my life, which I was to be deprived of when he found it necessary to threaten me.

I acknowledge my ignorance of the salutary laws of Great Britain in suffering myself to be thus imposed upon, as well as my folly in having even supposed him to be of such consequence to the Hon'ble the Select Committee; yet, as the well-being of the Hon'ble Company's affairs in a great measure depends upon the impartiality and integrity of those whose office does any way concern the administration and execution of justice, or the common good of the subject, I humbly hope still to obtain redress; and as I have heard much of the justice of the English laws, and am informed that the Hon'ble Court of Directors have been pleased to order that "if a Native chooses the "decision of his grievances by English laws, those and those only must be pursued, "and pursued according to the directions in the charter." I am very desirous of laying my case before the juries at the next sessions, where I am informed it is only cognizable.

But lest the proferring in that manner my complaint against him, whilst in office should be of any detriment to the affairs of the Hon'ble Company under his management, I hereby first humbly beg the permission of the Hon'ble Board; and as the grievances I complain of tend manifestly to the evil example of all others, the Company's Banians in office, as to the great oppression and detriment of the Native inhabitants in general.

966.—*Nabakissen fully acquitted.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 18.]

For this reason (Nobokissen's high position) it was that he sent for Ramnaut and examined him upon the facts set forth in his memorial, not one of which he finds Ramnaut can support by a single proof or evidence, the whole charge resting upon his single assertion.

The President further acquaints the Committee, it was with the same view he made enquiry into the other charges brought against Nobokissen, although they did not so immediately affect his character in a public station, since conviction of his guilt in one instance would serve to corroborate the facts urged by Ramnaut and render Nobokissen unworthy of the Committee's protection. That he has the greatest reason to believe that the whole story of Nobokissen's having violated the wife of a brahmin has been maliciously forged by Nobokissen's enemies with intention to ruin him.

That the other charge brought against Nobokissen of his having forcibly carried off the wife of Ram, a goldsmith, appears to be equally void of truth, and to spring from the same principle of jealousy and resentment, as the Committee will perceive from the zemindar's report of this transaction, which he now submits to the consideration of the Board.

SIR,—Herewith I send you the information and depositions of the several persons who appeared before me in consequence of the complaint made against Nobokissen. On perusal of them I dare say you will be of opinion with me, that it is an accusation maliciously invented to depreciate his character and to entail a general odium upon him, as there is not a single circumstance in the said depositions that can even create a suspicion of his having had the informant's sister at his house.

As I am not now zemindar, I have no longer the power to officiate as such in the punishment I think is due to the informant and his brother.

GARDEN HOUSE, *17th February.* CHARLES FLOYER.

The President concludes with acquainting the Committee that, having reason to believe Ramnaut, the brahmin, and other accusers upon this occasion, are the tools and instruments of a concealed faction, he had ordered them under a guard, to prevent their being tampered with and instructed in their evidence, until they could be examined by the Committee.

Nobokissen accordingly confesses that he went by Lord Clive's order to Ramnaut about the money he was directed by the Governor and Council to refund to the inhabitants of Malda, he then received from Ramnaut a nuzzur of two gold mohurs. He also received from him at another time a nuzzur of two or three pieces of cloth. That as to the ring, he calls upon Ramnaut to produce a single proof that he ever had or was seen to have such a ring in his possession.

Ramnaut was directed by the Council to refund Rs. 27,000. This was in November. He was confined until he could give security for that sum. There was no other cause, nor can he (Ramnaut) mention another cause assigned for his confinement.

They were accordingly called in, and the brahmin being asked if he had any matter of complaint against Nobokissen, replies no, that he has nothing himself to allege, but that he had been much pressed and solicited by Ram Sunar Ghose and Nemo Gangoolee to accuse Nobokissen of violating his wife. That he had been sent for by Nundcoowar who desired he would complain of Nobokissen to the Board.

He further declares that, wrought upon by Nundcoowar's promises and the persuasions of Ram Sunar Ghose and Nemo Gangoolee, he used his utmost endeavours to prevail on his wife to accuse Nobokissen, but she would never give her consent to be the instrument of ruining an innocent man, and that when he asked Ram Sunar Ghose and Nemo Gangoolee for what purpose they would have him accuse Nobokissen, their answer was, that he would be sued for carrying away the goldsmith's wife, and this fresh charge would add a link to the chain.

To confront Ram Sunar Ghose, the brahmin's wife is called in. She declares that she never was any way injured by Nobokissen; but that Ram Sunar Ghose and Nemo Gangoolee had used every endeavour to persuade her and her husband to accuse him. That Nemo Gangoolee offered to give her Rs. 500 in jewels and Rs. 2,000 in money if she would consent, and that Nundcoowar and Nemo Gangoolee had worked so

much upon the mind of her husband by large promises and offers of money, that he (the brahmin) even threatened her life if she refused to comply.

The several evidences being now dismissed, the Select Committee proceed to the following Resolutions, *viz.* :—

That the charge brought against Nobokissen by Ramnaut is neither confirmed by proofs nor corroborated by circumstances, and that it rests entirely upon the bare assertion of a man already convicted of avowed perjury before the Council, and who appears to be instigated by a faction and impelled by resentment to make this daring attack on the character of a person countenanced and protected by the Government.

That, therefore, Ramnaut be immediately deprived of the Company's protection as a just punishment for his having forged and published a false, scandalous and malicious libel; and that he be sent out of Calcutta and delivered over to the country Government to make good to the inhabitants of Malda the several sums he extorted from them, agreeably to the following resolution of the Council, the 30th of December 1865. "The board, having perused and considered the several proceedings "already taken and recorded, are of opinion that Ramnaut appears to be "a notorious villain, having certainly taken several sums of money from "many people in the province of Bengal by extortion and violence, and "committed crimes for which he deserves the most exemplary punish- "ment. This circumstance the Board, however, refer for further consi- "deration, and for the present resolve that he shall refund to the different "people the whole that he had collected from them."

That Mr. William Bolts appears from many circumstances to be deeply concerned in the conspiracy to ruin Nobokissen's character and attempt his life, in which opinion the Committee are confirmed by his violent and declared resentment to Nobokissen; by the share he took in stirring up and instigating a prosecution against him in the zemindary Court upon an imaginary and false accusation; and particularly, from his taking at this juncture into his service Ramnaut, a man who stands publicly convicted of perjury, with a view of forging and publishing further aspersions upon Nobokissen's character.

That Mr. Bolts having on this and many other occasions endeavoured to draw an odium upon the administration, and to promote faction and discontent in the settlement, has rendered himself unworthy of any further indulgence from the Committee, and of the Company's protection.

That, therefore, he be directed to quit Bengal and proceed to Madras by the first ship that shall sail for that Presidency in the month of July next, in order to take his passage from thence to Europe in September.

That Nundcoowar appearing to have promoted, instigated and forged accusations against Nobokissen by large promises of money and presents, with a view of gratifying his personal resentment and indulging an intriguing disposition, shall be ordered by the President strictly to confine himself to his own house, and in future to avoid such practices on pain of forfeiting the Company's protection and being delivered over to the Government for such punishment as his crimes may be thought to deserve.

That the zemindar be desired by the President to inflict such punishment upon Ram, the goldsmith, and the other evidences upon that occasion, as he shall think due to the base attempt to ruin the character and take away the life of an innocent person.

And lastly, that Ram Sunar Ghose, Nemo Gangoolee and the other instruments and agents employed by Nundcoowar to stir up and carry on this prosecution shall be publicly flogged and then turned out of the settlement.

967.—*Charity Money in Murshidabad.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 11.]

By charity allowed to religious people, agreeable to an established custom by Royal authority, as paid by Mahomed Reza Khan, being for the months of May, November, December at 214-7 per month ... ... Rs. 643-5.

968.—*Calcutta Unhealthiness; Troops not to be landed there.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, MARCH 27.]

As I shall this day take my leave of the Committee, it is not foreign to my department if I recall to your remembrance what a fatal mortality prevailed amongst the troops which were detained in Calcutta during the sickly season of the last year. A greater number of military died here in those three months than we lost in the three brigades for a whole year, notwithstanding that the garrison of Calcutta did not amount to a fifth part of the strength of the brigades; it is therefore

my most earnest request, that the recruits from Europe, or any other troops which shall arrive, may not be permitted even to land at Fort William, but that they may be ordered to proceed without delay by water to Cossimbazar, to which place I will send proper officers to receive and conduct them to Monghyr.

CALCUTTA, *March* 27. } RICHARD SMITH.

The Committee order that the expected recruits from Europe shall not be landed as usual at Calcutta, but proceed directly to Cossimbazar for the reasons assigned in the Colonel's Minute, for which purpose the Military Pay Master General shall have directions to provide boats sufficient for conveying 300 men.

969.—*Revenues in Bahar collected by three battalions of Sipahis.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, MARCH 27.]

The Behar revenues are not to be collected without a force in the several pergunnahs to keep in awe the zemindars.

Nothing but force can ensure the receipts of the revenues, the methods of collecting them being different from those in Bengal. Our three battalions of sepoys are scarcely adequate to the service required, and are so badly armed, that I am to desire an order may be given for supplying them with others; they never have received any but old ones repaired, which are of little service and continually out of order; upwards of 300 men are without firelocks, learning their exercise with bamboos.

970.—*Dacca Expenditure.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 18.]

A statement of the annual expenses, as settled by the ministers, necessary to be kept up at Dacca. Account, the collection, &c.

Allowances allowed to Surfrauz Khan's family, and other people of quality who were prisoners, *viz*:—

Haufizoollah Khan, Surfrauz Khan's son, &c.; Wojun Nissa Begum, Hussen Cooly Khan's wife; Sahebjee Begum, Sonent Jung's wife	as per list	33,795	15	0
		360	0	0
		600	0	0
				34,755 15 0

Court of justice of six persons appointed to decide all causes, such as quarrels and disputes which are perpetually happening among the lowest sort of inhabitants residing in the city, each, Rs. 50 per month is					3,600	0 0
Charges, Dewanny, *viz* :—						
A few moorpungkeys and beauleahs for the service of Mahomed Reza Khan, and on the service at the city some are absolutely necessary ..					25,000	0 0
Charges, Cutcherry, *viz* :—						
For moories, pickars, srisdars, moonsees and servants	36,500	0	0			
Country paper, pen, ink, carpets, mats, oil, setringees and Bilwah cloth, the whole per annum amounts to Sicca Rupees ...	5,800	0	0			
					45,000	0 0
Charity, *viz* :—						
Allowed to poor people as usual	2,823	14	0			
Hospital charges and black doctors, with medicines, &c., to attend the poor sick people ...	1,518	10	0			
Allowance also to the lame and blind	3,600	0	0			
Do. daily allowed to sundry people, to the amount of several hundreds, who have ever been kept up and supported by the orders of His Majesty and the Nabob	445	8	0			
					8,388	0 0
Charges general, *viz* :—						
Wages to passage boats and chowkey boats, peons, pikes, &c.	2,500	0	0			
Khilluts given to people on the day of Eed ...	94	7	10			
An allowance allowed to the mohurrirs, &c., at the treasury, as formerly agreed on	3,637	15	2			
Boat hire on sending letters, at different places, &c., as business may require	2,386	8	0			
					8,618	15 0
Jessurant Khan's allowance, with his servants and aswarryat per month						
A tassuldar per month is per annum						

A List of State Prisoners.

Their Names.	How related.	Confined by whose order.	In what year.	What allowance per month.
				Rs.
Haffizulla Khan ...	Son of Shirfraj Khan ...	Aliverdy Khan	1744	100
	Mother of Haffizulla Khan	ditto	ditto	20
	Sister of Haffizulla Khan ..	ditto	ditto	50
Mudrena Begum ...	Daughter of Haffizulla Khan ...	ditto	ditto	15
Bhaloo Begum ...	Wife of Haffizulla Khan ...	ditto	ditto	50
Umbeeah Begum ...	Daughter of ditto ...	ditto	ditto	15
Shukerullah Khan ...	Son of Shirfraj Khan ...	ditto	ditto	500
Mirza Mogul ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	80
	Mother of Mirza Mogul ...	ditto	ditto	20
Meer Zuy ...	Son of Shirfraj Khan ...	ditto	ditto	80
	Mother of Meer Zuy ...	ditto	ditto	20
Mirza Boorhen ...	Son of Shirfraj Khan ...	ditto	ditto	80
	Mother of Mirza Boorhen...	ditto	ditto	20
	Sister of Mirza Boorhen ...	ditto	ditto	30
	Mother of Auka Mirza ...	ditto	ditto	20
	Son of Shirfraj Khan ...			
	Wife of Auka Mirza ...	ditto	ditto	80
Meer Assud ...	Son-in-law of Shirfraj Khan	ditto	ditto	80
Nujeebul Nessa ...	Daughter of Meer Asud ...	ditto	ditto	25
Kersomul Nessa ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	25
Mattee Begum ...	Daughter of Shirfraj Khan	ditto	ditto	50
Azeez Begum ...	Daughter of Shirfraj Khan	ditto	ditto	50
Moundees Begum ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	30
Booby Aufeat ...	Wife of Shirfraj Khan ...	ditto	ditto	20
	Mother of Guzzunfer ...	ditto	ditto	20
	Hossein Khan, nephew of Shirfraj Khan ...			
Larly Begam ...	Wife to Guzzunfer Hossein Khan ...	ditto	ditto	180
Jessarut Jung ...	Son of Soulut Jung ...	Serajah Dowlah	1755	100
Syfuldeen Mahomed Khan ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	100
Mirza Jubba ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	80
Mirza Boollah ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	80
Mirza Meglooh ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	80
Bunny Begum ...	Daughter of Soulut Jung ...	ditto	ditto	60
Ummutul Zonah ...	Daughter of Serajah Dowlah	Jaffir Ally Khan	1757	500
Lutful Nizza ...	Ditto ...	ditto	ditto	100
Bunny Jeo ...	Wife of Hussun Cooly Khan	Serajah Dowlah	1756	100
Sectaram Vakeel in the room of an eunuch of the Serai ...		.....	...	15
Oujul Nissa ...	Wife of Hussun Cooly Khan	Serajah Dowlah	...	300
Sahibjee ...	Wife of Soulut Jung ...	ditto	ditto	600

An account of Jaghirs allowed to the following persons out of the Dacca Province agreeable to their Sunnuds, *viz.* :—

Mahomed Hussein Khan, Phousdar of Sreepoor, Songroomgur, and Shahzadpoor, Pergunnah Bavall	5,051	0	0
Mirzah Mahomed Hussein	2,500	0	0
Mirzah Abdoollah	2,866	11	0
Kissore Sing and Ramnaut Sing, &c., zemindars of pergunnah Shosung	10,707	10	5
Sicca Rupees ...	21,125	5	5

971.—*Letters on Nipal.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 30.]

The President lays before the Committee the following extract of a letter to him from the Chief at Patna :—

"I believe, Sir, you have before been acquainted with the situation of Nipal, which has long been besieged by the Goorcully Rajah. The inhabitants are now drove to the utmost extremities; repeated solicitations have been made for our assistance, and I am informed a vakeel is now on his way hither. I enclose you copy of a letter received from Mr. Golding at Bettiah on the subject, and I should be glad to know from you whether, on the vakeel's arrival, I may give him any encouragement.

The trade from Nipal, which formerly was very considerable, has been entirely stopped by these troubles; a small force, I am assured, would not only be sufficient to raise the siege, but entirely to reduce the Goorcully Rajah to obedience. The latter is so very apprehensive of our assisting the Nipal Rajah, that I had a letter from him the other day desiring he might be allowed to visit me at Patna, and that protection might be afforded him.

A body of 5,000 sinnasses, (sænyiasis) have lately entered the Sircar Saronge country; the Phousdar sent two companies of sepoys after them, under the command of a serjeant, who came up with them; the sinnasses stood their ground, and after the sepoys had fired away part of their ammunition, fell on them, killed and wounded near eighty, and put the rest to flight. This has obliged me to send Captain Welding, with all the sepoys I could spare from the garrison, to rid the country of them, as their stay strikes terror into the country people and greatly hurts the collections in that part. Three battalions are not equal to the service required in the Behar province; another ought to be raised against the breaking up of the rains, which I beg to recommend to the consideration of you and the Committee. We shall then be able to secure the collections and supply the brigades with good recruits.

PATNA,
20th April, 1767.

I am, &c.,
(Sd.) THOS. RUMBOLD.

The President lays before us several letters to him from Mr. Rumbold on the subject of the Nipal expedition, and also that gentleman's correspondence with Captain Kinlock since the detachment left Patna during the course of the expedition; and it appearing from these letters that to attempt proceeding without being supported by a strong reinforcement, would serve only to expose the troops to the danger of perishing by famine and the sword. Resolved, as our military establishment is already much reduced by sending detachments to the coast, and as further reinforcements may be required by the gentlemen at Fort Saint-George, that therefore we recall Captain Kinlock, and for that purpose write the following letter to the Chief at Patna :—

To THOMAS RUMBOLD, Esq.,

Sir,—The President has communicated to us your correspondence with him and with Captain Kinlock upon the subject of the Nipal expedition. From these letters we perceive with much regret the expediency of relinquishing for the present all thoughts of the attempt and of recalling the detachment.

Our expectations, founded upon the intelligence conveyed to us by you and Captain Kinlock, were indeed flattering; nor can we account for this miscarriage otherwise than by supposing some misconduct in the officer, or forgery in the letters and informations given you by the vakeel and faquir.

972.—*Charges at Murshidabad.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, APRIL 30.]

To Subah, Bengal, collected from different provinces and pergunnas that compose Bengal	10,07,593	8	18	1
To Bhagulpore, collected this month	64,000	0	0	0
To Subah, Bengal, received cash in part from the farmers what was advanced them to improve their lands	55,032	4	10	1
By charity, allowed to the poor people by the royal authority, as paid by Mahomed Reza Khan	428	14	0	0

Servants' Wages.

1 Head Dawkman	10	0	0		
30 Dawkmen	210	0	0		
	220	0	0		
Batta at 16 per cent. ...	35	3	3		
				255	3 6

Moraudbaug Charges.

	Mds.	Srs.	Mds.	Srs.					
Gram for oxen	2	13 at	1	10 0	per rupee	1	13	6
Straw for ditto		...	6	12 6				
Oil		...	2	8 0				
					11 2 0			
Batta at 16 per cent. ...					1 12 6			
						12	14	3

Charges General.

Paid a pair of Cossid's hire going to Dacca on the Company's business	11	1	9
Oil for Bellmen and Frosconnah for 2 months	2	0	0
	13	1	9

973.—*Bengal Revenues.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JULY 6.]

You will be pleased to observe that the charges of the collections have been reduced above two lacs of rupees, notwithstanding the allowances to the zemindars and collectors have been settled in such manner as to leave them not the least plea for extortion or oppression, and they have the strictest injunctions given them to promote the cultivation of the lands, encourage trade, and afford every protection to the industrious ryots; at the same time they are cautioned that any misconduct on their part will meet with its proper punishment.

Among other instances of neglect and fraud in the last year's collections, the Ministers have been obliged particularly to point out Mirza Cossim, the Phousdar of Hooghly. His conduct has been so atrocious, and his behaviour so insolent, refusing to give any explanation of his accounts, or account for the rents that are due from him, attended with such personal invectives against the Ministers and Mr. Sykes, that they have been under an absolute necessity of dismissing him from all his employments, and his accounts are now under scrutiny.

We have also, gentlemen, endeavoured to discover the source of the continual complaints made to our Board by the French and Dutch factories of the interruption and oppression of their trade, and if possible to apply some remedy; but we are sorry to say that a thorough knowledge of the subject has only served to convince us of the immediate impracticability of the undertaking. The truth of the matter is, that this country does not afford a sufficient quantity of goods to answer the demands of each Company since our Company's investments have been so considerably increased, altho' the trade of private merchants has been so curbed and curtailed to the utmost. To satisfy our neighbours, therefore, we must either yield them up a part of our own investment, or use our endeavours to increase the annual produce of each manufacture. We would recommend the latter method as the most eligible, and we have already laid the strictest injunctions on all the zemindars and landholders to give

every encouragement in their respective districts to the cultivation of the mulberry tree and cotton plant; we have even eased the ground rent on lands so cultivated, in a proportion that will make it more advantageous to the tenant to raise that kind of produce than any other. We have already procured the weavers an exemption from all occasional taxes, or any other demand that can in the least interrupt or impede their labours, and have strongly recommended them to the protection of all the zemindars.

We have lately had several conferences with Oodipooray Gossein, the Mahratta Vakeel appointed by Janojee to treat with the President regarding the cession of the Cuttack Province to the Company. The Vakeel has demanded the annual payment of 16 lacs of rupees, the sum promised him by Lord Clive, as he positively and constantly affirms. We have, however, brought him to accept of 13 lacs, on condition that one half of the first year's rent be paid him on the immediate cession of the soubah, and the other half as soon as we are in full possession, provided that Janojee should be fully empowered by his superiors to conclude the treaty and make the proposed cession.

The Nabob and the President have, however, acquainted Janojee that he is to consider this sum as a full compensation for all demands of chout, &c., on these soubahs. But, notwithstanding Janojee in his letter to the President mentions that he has invested his vakeel with full powers to negociate and finally conclude this affair, the latter declares he has no authority to deliver up the country without further instructions from his master.

974.—*A Bill in Chancery.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JULY 14.]

We have filed a bill against Mr. Johnstone in the Court of Chancery, to make him account to the Company for the money he received from the present Nabob on his succeeding to the subahship on the decease of his father, Meer Jaffier, contrary to and in breach of the most express orders of the Company; and we intend to proceed in the same manner against all other servants of the Company who have been confederates with him or are concerned in the like offence. We shall not stop here, the instances in Mr. Johnstone and others applying part of the revenues of Burdwan, Midnapore and Jellasore, during their residence at these places, to their own private emoluments, to the great prejudice of the Company, do not escape our notice; for these and all other frauds we shall use all legal endeavours to bring the offenders to justice, and we hope by this means we shall put an entire stop to that venality and corruption which has been of late so prevalent in almost every rank of our servants.

975.—*New Routes to Nipal.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JULY 21.]

An account of the stages from Patna to Nipal transmitted to the President by Mr. Rumbold.

		Coss.	
From Patna to	Hodgepore	3	Water and provisions to be met with all these stages.
„	Durbunga	22	
„	Bawah	7	
„	Jannuepore	12	
„	Jelandbass	6	Water, but no provisions.
„	Rannybassa	9	ditto ditto.
„	Sidley	9	Water and provisions.
„	Kurcoote	6	ditto ditto.
„	Jungajulee near Dumjah	6	Water, but no provisions.
„	Danpebah	10	ditto
„	Ponontee	6	ditto The Rajah will supply the troops with provisions at Danpebah.

N. B.—From Patna to Jelandbass the road is very good, from thence to Sidley is chiefly jungles, through which cannon may pass without difficulty; from Sidley to Nipal the road is reckoned extremely good.

In the march to Nipal by this route, there is no river to be crossed, nor any hills to be passed. It will be necessary to carry bullocks from Durbunga to Dumjah; at the latter place the troops will be supplied with coolies from Nipal.

976.—*Expedition to Nipal.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JULY 21.]

We are strongly induced to prosecute the intended expedition into that country. In the present declining state of commerce and scarcity of current species, we the more readily embrace a measure which promises to open new sources of trade and stores of money to replace those annual drains of treasury we are directed to make for supplying the China investment.

977.—*Jaghir in Bahar.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, JULY 21.]

I now forward to you an exact statement of the jageers in the Behar province, as they are entered under the heads of jagheer, altumgah, madud maush, payee bakee khalsa sercefa.

I imagine the following explanations of each will prove in some degree necessary. *Jagheer.*—A grant of such a number of daum, valued at a stated sum, and in particular pergunnahs therein mentioned, given by the king to such persons who have distinguished themselves in his service. Those so endowed are called munsubdars, and formerly kept up a number of troops ready to march to his assistance. This custom has been long neglected, and jagheers are now bought of the king's ministers. *Altumgah.*—Is likewise a grant of land bestowed in the same manner as jagheers, with this difference, it is a gift of charity, and descends to the heirs of the person possessing it, whereas a jagheer, at the death of the jagheerdar, returns to the king. *Mudud Maush.*—A grant of the same kind as the altumgah, but generally given in less sums and to faqueers and other religious persons of lower rank. *Payee Bakee Khalsa Sereefa.*—At the time this whole soubah was nearly given away in jagheers, &c., the small part remaining in possession of the crown had (as the words imply) this title. The revenues were thence collected by the dewan, and paid into the royal treasury; this, Cossim Ally Khan seized upon. The part entered in this account has been of late restored by Mahomed Reza Khan, and is collected as formerly. *Daum.*—An imaginary space of land, 40 of which are esteemed equal to one rupee; nevertheless, no one except the Shahzada receive jagheers, &c., according to this valuation. As the dignity of the jagheerdar does not so much depend upon the clear income of his jageeer as the number of daums granted, the king has by this method a power of distinguishing a greater number at a smaller expense than he could by granting at the first rate of 40 daums to a rupee.

On Cossim Ally Khan's accession to the subahdarry, he found this province of no real value to him as it then stood, distributed in jagheers; he therefore called in all the sunnuds, most of which he destroyed, the remainder, with those since added, compose this account.

I endeavoured to obtain a more particular account by calling in the firmans, taking their several dates, and explaining the reasons for which the grants were made; but I find many of the jagheerdars reside in different parts of Bengal, and numbers, by account, have not firmans to produce. Mahomed Reza Khan settled the claims entirely as he thought proper when he was up at Patna. If directions were issued that only those who were properly authorized by grants from the king should continue to hold the jagheers they are at present in possession of, I apprehend a great part of those now brought in the account would revert to the Government. It is difficult to find out whether such as are entered under the head of jagheerdars, who really were entitled from original gifts, are still in being, or whether it is only their families that keep up the claims in their names. We find vakeels who act for them and collect their rents. That the jagheer lands will produce a much larger yearly revenue than valued at in the enclosed statement is incontestible, were the Government to interfere in the collections and pay only the several sums agreeable to the present valuation from the Treasury to the claimants.

I am, &c.,

(Sd.) THOS. RUMBOLD.

PATNA,
6th July 1767.

978.—*Court's reasons for abolishing the Inland Trade Monopoly.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, AUGUST 4.]

In depriving their servants of all share and participation of the inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco, the Court of Directors evidently aim at diffusing this traffic in the most extensive and equitable manner amongst the natives themselves, so as to prevent a monopoly of it in the hands of ministers, favorites and dependants of the Government, to the injury and oppresssion of the industrious merchant and laborer. They seem also to hope that so striking an instance of their disinterested views will make a deep impression on the minds of the people, and prove the most effectual means of conciliating them to our administration.

You will therefore use your utmost influence in recommending to the ministers whatever may best serve to promote those purposes of the Hon'ble Court of Directors.

979.—*The Salt Manufacture.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, AUGUST 4.]

To this end we think it essentially necessary that the most positive orders shall be issued by the ministers to the zemindars of those lands where salt is manufactured, that no one person be permitted to work all the cularies within their respective districts, but that the same be divided and diffused among as many of the merchants as are willing to engage in the making of salt; and that the orders of the ministers may not be eluded by the artifice and contrivance of zemindars, we would recommend that a monthly return shall be made to the city, specifying the names of the several merchants employed, and also the quantity of salt manufactured in each district.

980.—*Slowness of Public Works.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 20.]

The Select Committee observe with much concern the enormous expense incurred by all public buildings, the very slow progress of the new works and the present untenable and defenceless condition of the new fort, notwithstanding the immense sums expended on the fortifications and buildings.*

* Amounting altogether to two millions sterling.

981.—*Hyder's Army, Various races in—*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 24.]

According to the best accounts we can collect of Hyder Ally's artillery and forces, it consists of 47 pieces of cannon, from 32 pounders to 2 pounders, manned by 180 Europeans divided into 4 companies.

One regiment of 400 Portuguese and Topass Grenadiers.

One do. of 400 Topasses.

4 Battalions of Grenadier Sepoys, 800 each, with European Officers.

About 10,000 other sepoys and 5,000 Polygar peons.

55 Hussars } Europeans.
25 Dragoons }

600 Caffries armed with coats of mail, helmets and quilted drawers, mounted on horseback.

500 Mogul or Persian Cavalry.

20,000 ordinary black horse, which we believe may be about 10,000.

982.—*Sepoys in Cutcherry service.*

[SELECT COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 27.]

Report of the 24th, 25th, 26th and 31st Pergunnah Battalions, where stationed.

With Maha Rajah Shitab Roy for the Cutcherry Service		3 Companies.	
At Arrah		4 do.	
„ Rotasghur		1 do.	
„ Seristocomba		2 do.	
„ Sasseram		3 do.	
„ Tickarry		1 do.	
„ Nawady		2 do.	
„ Durbangah		1 do.	
„ Betteya		2 do.	
„ Sircar Sarang		3 do.	
„ Curruckpore		2 do.	
With Captain Douglas on the Survey		1 do.	
With Captain Kinlock		4 do.	
At different places in small parties		1 do.	
			30
Of the new Battalion ordered to march—			
To Sircar Sarang		4 Companies.	
„ Siristocoba		1 do.	
„ Sasseram		1 do.	
Nowaddy		1 do.	
Remaining in Patna without arms.		3 do.	
			10
Total ...		Companies	40

PATNA,
14*th October* 1767.

(Sd.) B. WILDING,
Captain.

983.—*Visit to Aurungs.*

[BY AN OFFICIAL IN 1767.]

I have already visited the aurungs situated in the Burdwan Province, *viz.*, Cuttorah, Hurripaul, Keerpoy, Sonamooky and Gollagore.

At Cuttorah, the investment consists in Soot Rowalls, Coopies, Guillerdusoy and Barnagore Rowalls, the whole order amounting to 16,300 pieces.

The provisions made at Gollagore aurung chiefly consists of the same articles as are provided at Cuttorah, and the order sent thither amounts to near 15,000 pieces. The business of this aurung is conducted in the same undisturbed manner as at Cuttorah, and seldom any impediments or disputes arise here, except some of a trivial nature between the jemantdars, izardars, and our gomastahs and assamies, which are however soon adjusted by an appeal to the Cutcherry at Burdwan.

On my arrival at Doorhatta I found the Company's affairs in a distressed situation. It was now the beginning of May and not a piece of cloth collected of the new year's investment, nor any prospect of its being commenced on soon. There remained at this time near 50,000 rupees outstanding of last year's advances, which the gomastah was recovering very slowly in cloths of the worst quality. The cause of this backwardness was owing to a disaffection among the weavers, who for near three months had deserted their looms and engaged in a general combination not to work for the Company.

Though I removed one impediment to our business by this measure, yet still there remained other obstacles to overcome. The weavers declared they would not work at their present prices, and were continually coming from the distant aurungs in large bodies making loud complaints of the dearness of thread, and the necessaries of life. To satisfy them I made an enquiry at all the hauts round Doorhatta into the prices of thread, &c.; and from the report delivered me, I drew out a list of the increase necessary to be made on each assortment, the whole on an average arising to 10 per cent. enhance on the prices of last year.

The trivial abatement hitherto made had certainly assisted to a debasement of the manufacture, as no weaver would trouble himself to fabricate cloth of superior quality while he was paid nearly the same price for the hasty, ill-finished products of his loom.

The dulauls and weavers long objected to my plan, but as it met with your sanction, I insisted on its being adopted. This done the dulauls entered into an engagement to deliver in by the end of February the whole of the Company's order amounting to 36,000 pieces, also to complete within the season the deficiency in their last year's engagement. The French gomastahs, however, complaining to their deputies that the large demands we had made prevented them from making any advances, as the weavers who were intimidated by our dulauls would not accept their putton. Immediately on this I released our dulauls from that part of their obligation which related to last year's balance, which was 4,000 pieces, and also struck out of the muchulca 6,000 of the quantity contracted for this year.

I was now in hopes that our business would have gone on without interruption, yet some time after, enquiring into the state of the looms, to my great surprise I found the major part employed on private account, several unemployed, and a very few only

dedicated to the service of the Company. This report necessitated me to issue an order that the Company's business should be attended to for the three ensuing months. This order gave great disgust to the dulauls and weavers, who stirred the French and other gomastahs to make complaints to their principals.

These proofs, backed by some enquiries I have made since my return, confirm me in my opinion that a general combination prevails among the servants at the aurungs, the mysteries of which are not unknown to the sircars employed here, and I am convinced that there are many overcharges in their accounts, and that the Company have not full credit for the several profits arising on batta and sundry dustoories in their adjustments.

I left the French and Dutch deputies at Doorhatta and proceeded to Keerpoy, where I found the investment in a very backward state. I arrived there on the 13th June, and only 1980 pieces of cloth were then collected, in part of an order for 42,550 pieces, and those of such infamous fabrics, that what was called fine scarce deserved rank among the lower letters of the middling assortments. The mull mulls in particular, intended for flowering, were so very bad that Mr. De La Porte declared every piece unfit for the purpose they were provided for.

Here as at Hurripaul I found the weavers murmuring at the prices allowed, and refusing to work till they had some enhance granted them. I was therefore under a necessity of making the same increase at this aurung as had taken place at the former.

After this I set out for Dignagur, the place which Mr. Hawkins had established as the head gurrah aurung.

As the dependant aurungs are many of them situated at a great distance from Dignagur I recommended it to Mr. Hawkins to make a tour round the whole twice in a season, as his presence would not only contribute to support the collections, but as the despatches were made from different quarters of the country, it was also necessary for keeping up the cloths to their proper standard, that he should inspect and price them before they were packed.

I must beg leave to remark before I conclude, that the universal cry for increase in price, the sensible decay in the fabrics, with the difficulty which is found in making a provision for the Company, proceed entirely from the immense demands of merchants of all denominations, which this year exceeds whatever was known heretofore, and many weavers have now more putton in their hands then they can acquit in two seasons. This eagerness enables them to exact what prices they please from private purchasers, and from thence they found their demands of enhance from the Company; it is this also which induces them to hurry on their manufactures to fulfil their engagements, and prevents their paying the least regard to the quality of their fabrics, being certain that the refuse of one purchaser will be greedily accepted by some other.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

Account of the origin, progress and termination of the Expedition of Captain Kinlock to Nepal in 1767.

The expedition of Captain Kinlock to Nipal seems to have originated in a communication made by Mr. Golding, Resident at Bettea, to Mr. (Sir Thomas) Rumbold, chief of Patna, in a letter dated 6th April 1767. Mr. Golding, after relating the substance of a conversation which he had held on the preceding day with a person who had arrived from Nipal for the purpose of soliciting, on the part of the Rajah, the assistance and protection of the English, states his opinion in the following terms:—"Such an expedi-"tion might be undertaken not only with great justice, but a prospect of "much advantage to the Company. It would be rescuing a large city from "plunder and the sword, and there is not the least doubt from the former "very insolent letter of the Goorkally Rajah, and some letters which have "lately passed between him and the Phouzdar here, but that if he succeeds "at Nipal, he will most certainly come down to Bettea, for he has already "encroached upon us not a little. The fir scheme must then unavoidably "be given up, and this country will be continually infested by his parties. "The places where our work is now carrying on at the hills are subject to one "of his revolted Rajahs, without whose assistance, notwithstanding the "permission and countenance at present of Goorkally, we should be able to "do but little business. But these Rajahs probably will not long be able to "hold themselves independent. Nipal commands a vast extent of country, "and the hills on the other side of it. The opening a communication this "way with China would be an acquisition of no small importance to the "Company, and that large field of commerce which would at once show itself "is an object of no less consequence. If the Company propose to them-"selves any advantage from cutting of firs, or the revenue of this country "(Bettea), they must shortly be obliged to oppose Goorkally, and at a time "when he may be better prepared too than at present to receive us. I "therefore imagine it the most prudent step to attack him before he gains "strength, and while it may be done without any expense to the Company."

Mr. Rumbold transmits a copy of that letter to Mr. Verelst, the President of the Select Committee, in a letter dated 5th April 1767, in which, after stating that the Rajah of Nipal had long been closely besieged in his

capital, that he was reduced to great extremities, and had repeatedly solicited the protection of the English, and offering some observations on the subject of the interruption occasioned to the lurcative trade between the two countries by the disturbances in Nipal, requested to know whether, on the arrival of the Nipalese vakeel at Patna, he might give him any encouragement.

The Select Committee, in its reply dated 30th April, signified its determination to afford the solicited protection, and instructed Mr. Rumbold to represent to the Goorkally Rajah that, if he did not immediately raise the siege and evacuate the Nipal country, the honor and interest of the Company would require the British Government to treat him as a declared enemy. Lest, however, the proposed remonstrances should prove ineffectual, Captain Kinlock, who was then on his march from Tipperah, was directed to repair to Patna and obey such orders as he might receive from Mr. Rumbold for securing the objects of the expedition, *namely*, the relief of the Rajah of Nipal, and a free intercourse and uninterrupted trade with Nipal.

On the 28th of May Mr. Rumbold reported that he had addressed a letter to the Goorkally Chief in conformity to the instructions which he had received for that purpose, and that he was in hourly expectation of receiving an answer, but expressed his apprehension that, as the Goorka had already nearly completed the conquest of the country, and would be unwilling to relinquish his favorite project, any attempt at negotiation would be unavailing.

On the 21st of July, the Select Committee resumed the subject of relieving the Rajah of Nipal, when the President, Mr. Verelst, laid before the Government a narrative of the situation of Jyeperkaush Mull, the Sovereign of Katmandoo, prepared by Captain Kinlock from the statement of his vakeel, Mucktar Umda, and a fakeer, Ram Dass, together with letters from Mr. Rumbold and Captain Kinlock to his address.

The communication of these papers having satisfied Government that an expedition for the relief of the Rajah of Nipal might be undertaken with great security as well as with the best prospect of success, and the Goorkally Rajah not having thought proper to accept the proffered mediation of the British Government, or even at that time to reply to Mr. Rumbold's letter, Government resolved to send an expedition to Nipal, and instructions were issued on the same date to the chief of Patna for the prosecution of it, on the terms that the Rajah was to reimburse the Company in all charges.

On the 6th of August, Mr. Rumbold acknowledged the receipt of the orders of Government, and stated that Captain Kinlock would shortly proceed on the proposed enterprize, reporting at the same time his opinion that, should the Goorka Chief, Prittee Narain, succeed in making himself master entirely of the Nipal country, he would prove so formidable as to lay us

under the necessity of sending a force to reduce him; adding also, that he had a few days before sent a vakeel to Patna for the purpose of demanding in his name the Bettea country, on pretence of its having formerly belonged to his family, and that to the letter which has been written to him by the express authority of Government, he had, after detaining for several days in confinement, returned a very evasive and insolent answer.

While Jyeperkaush was closely blockaded in his capital, after having been long exposed to all the horrors of war, and defended his possessions with uncommon fortitude and resolution, an expedition was undertaken by the British Government to afford him assistance, in the full expectation that the object would be easily attained, and the Select Committee, in a letter to the Court of Directors, dated 25th of September following, reported the measure in the following terms:—

"We need not inform you that for many years an advantageous trade "has been carried on between the province of Behar and the rich country "of Nipal, by which a considerable quantity of gold and many other "valuable commodities were imported. The Rajah being now dispossessed "of his country and shut up in his capital by the Rajah of Goorka, the "usual channel of commerce has been obstructed, and these provinces are "deprived of the benefits arising from the former intercourse, at a period "when the decline of trade and scarcity of specie render it of the greatest "importance that every spring of industry should flow freely and without "interruption. The vicinity too of Nipal to the Bettea country, of which the "Soubah is now in quiet possession, will bring additional advantages to this "traffic by rendering it more easy and secure than in former times, so that "we entertain very flattering prospects from the issue of an expedition of "which we hope to send you an account by the last despatches of the "season."

The hopes, however, thus expressed by the Select Committee were disappointed. The expedition failed, and the details having been communicated to the Select Committee by their Resident on the 11th December 1767, a resolution was passed that Captain Kinlock's detachment should be recalled, the Committee being of opinion that, unless the detachment was supported by a strong reinforcement, which the military establishment, at that time considerably reduced by the large detachments sent to the coast, could not afford, it would be exposed to the danger of perishing by famine and the sword.

The Committee at the same time directed that every reasonable means should be pursued for indemnifying the Company for the expenses of the expedition, and accordingly recommended that, for this purpose, the Company should retain possession of the low lands bordering on Bettea.

The Select Committee announced the failure of the expedition and its ulterior intentions to the Court of Directors in a letter dated 16th December 1767 in the following terms:—"In consequence of the demands upon us "from the Coast, we have been obliged to refuse those reinforcements to "Captain Kinlock for prosecuting the Nipal expedition which he thinks "necessary for succeeding in the attempt, and as the enterprize must now be "deferred to a more convenient opportunity, Mr. Rumbold has orders to "recall the detachment, keeping possession however of certain lands border-"ing on the Bettea country which belonged to the Goorkally Rajah, so rich "and fertile as amply to indemnify the charges incurred. We had reason to "believe there has been some misconduct in the officer employed, or for-"gery in the intelligence which gave birth to the expedition, else Captain "Kinlock, with the force he commanded, must have succeeded in relieving "the Rajah and opening the communication with Behar, from which we "expected considerable advantages to the commerce of this country.

"The strictest enquiry shall be made into every circumstance, and you "will be made acquainted with the particulars by one of the ships of this "season."

On the 3rd of January 1768, Mr. Rumbold reported in detail the causes of the failure of the expedition. He acquits the Nipalese agents of any intention to deceive him by false reports, and ascribes the circumstance of the fakeer, Ram Dass, having given a too favorable account of the facility with which troops might enter the Nipal territory, to an excess of zeal on his part for the interests of his master. He then proceeds to relate the causes of the failure of the expedition.

The roads were found to be extremely bad, but nevertheless every obstacle of that nature would have been surmounted had provisions been secured to the detachment. This was the primary cause of the failure, to which many unlucky circumstances also contributed. Repeated accounts from the Jesuits residing in Nipal and at Bettea confirmed the statement of the fakeer that the Rajah of Nepal was reduced to the last extremity of distress, and would be unable to prolong the struggle beyond the beginning of October. This rendered it necessary to push on the detachment so early in the season. The weather, however, proved remarkably unfavorable. The country people were slow in bringing in grain, and some few stragglers being attacked by the hill people in the rear of the detachment, struck such a panic into those who were engaged to supply the troops, that not a man would move unless escorted by a sufficient force, and the coolies employed in carrying grain, &c., would frequently in the night make off, leaving their burthen where no others could be procured to take them up.

Captain Kinlock being assured he might with ease push on and reach Nipal, where plenty would be found, made the attempt, and beyond all doubt had succeeded (having gained the Fort of Harriapore within 15 coss of the principal city, and in order to cross a river laying on the other side of the fort had finished a raft and a bridge) but for a most violent heavy rain that came on. The waters rushed in a torrent from the mountains, swelled the river almost instantaneously, and constrained him to abide in the fort till the waters should subside. The want of provisions was now felt; the rains continued many days; the sepoys, who from the first had shown a backwardness, began to mutiny, but were soon brought to order by the spirited conduct of their Commander, who, however, perceived the necessity of retiring; many of the troops falling sick, and only small quantities of grain arriving, not sufficient to subsist the troops. The mountaineers also got in the rear of the troops, and though they behaved despicably when opposed by the troops, they still deterred the followers of the camp from passing.

Mr. Rumbold concludes his narrative with expressing his opinion that Captain Kinlock's force was quite sufficient, before reduced by sickness and desertion, as the Goorka's troops were badly armed, and only in places difficult of access showed any degree of spirit; Mr. Rumbold gave Captain Kinlock credit for having behaved with the fortitude and resolution of a good officer, and for having exerted himself more than many would have been capable of doing in the same situation.

The Select Committee, however, was disposed to ascribe the failure of the expedition to a too hasty and imprudent progress on the part of Captain Kinlock when in want of provisions, which was a deviation from the orders with which he had been furnished by the Chief of Patna for the guidance of his conduct, and therefore, in justification of the measures pursued and his personal conduct, directed a Court of Enquiry to be held on him.

To these orders Mr. Rumbold replied on the 28th January, representing that a variety of unavoidable occurrences alone occasioned the miscarriage of the expedition, and demonstrated that Captain Kinlock was more unfortunate than culpable, in consequence of which the Select Committee expressed itself satisfied with regard to Captain Kinlock's conduct, and on the 10th February 1768 revoked its former orders. Captain Kinlock was therefore allowed to proceed in his operations for securing possession of the Teraie bordering on Bettea for the purpose of re-imbursing the Company, by the collections from them, for the expenses of the expedition.

In the meantime the Select Committee called upon the chief of Patna to furnish information regarding the extent of force which would be required for the eventual prosecution of the first intention of the enterprize, but

signified its determination to abstain from any second attempt while there was any probability of any further reinforcement being wanted for the assistance of the Presidency of Fort Saint George.

It would seem, therefore, that the Goorka Chief succeeded in establishing his authority over Nipal before any secure enterprize could be attempted; and that the British Government restored the lands to the Goorka Chief, now become Sovereign of Nipal, after indemnifying the Company, from the resources of those lands, for the expenses of the expedition.

General Kirkpatrick, in his History of Nipal, has, it would appear, erroneously stated that the assistance of the British Government was afforded to Runjeet Mull, the Sovereign of Bhatgoun, but it is evident from the records that the assistance was afforded to Jyeperkaush Mull, the Sovereign of Katmandoo, who appears to have been known by the style and title of Rajah of Nipal. Although the assistance was undoubtedly granted at the express solicitations of Jyeperkaush, the Sovereign of Katmandoo, it is probable that, as the kingdom of Nipal was at that time divided into three states, the success of the expedition would have been followed by the restoration of the three Sovereigns of Katmandoo, Patna, and Bhatgoun, who were descended from one common ancestor who lived about two centuries antecedent to the dismemberment of the empire.

General Kirkpatrick may have supposed that the assistance was afforded to the Sovereign of Bhatgoun, because he was the elder branch of the family, and because his son, Abdhoot Sing, retired to Benares, and afterwads labored to engage the British Government in measures for reinstating him in his paternal dominions.

APPENDIX B.

Kuch Bahar, end of its family history, or an abstract of the several reports respecting the clains of Rajah Hurrender Narain and Nazir Deo Koghinder Narain.

This country appears to have been in an independent state for upwards of 230 years, and the authority of the Rajah, sovereign and undivided. The family derive their origin from Beesoo Sing, who is reported to have been of divine origin. To him was given a chattah and a rod, the symbols of soveriegn authority, the former of which was to be held over the Rajah at his installation by the Nazir* Deo, or Commander of the Troops, and the latter carried by the Dewan Deo, or principal officer of the revenues. Custom had so far sanctioned these ceremonies as to make them appear indispensible,

* These officers are descended from the same stock as the Rajah.

and on this and the power possessed by the Nazir Deo *ex-officio*, seem to be founded the principal claims since assumed by the persons holding that office.

Upon the death of Rajah Mohinder Narain without issue, the country was overrun by the Booteas, and Saunto Narain, Nazir Deo, being a man of abilities and applying to the Bengal Soubah for assistance, after a considerable struggle, cleared the country and placed Roopnarain, the lineal successor, on the raj, procuring the office of Dewan Deo for his own elder brother, Suttnarain; stipulating, however, as it would appear, for a division of the revenues. This division was 9 annas to the Nazir Deo for himself and the pay of the troops to be kept up by him, 1 anna to the Dewan Deo for the civil expenses, and the remaining 6 annas for the support of the Rajah's dignity as Prince.

Rajah's share ...	0	5	17	2
Nazir Deo's ditto	0	9	2	2
Dewan Deo's ditto	0	1	0	0
Re. ...	1	0	0	0

About the year 1770, Ramnarain, then Dewan Deo, having a dispute with his brother, Rajah Durjundernarain, was murdered, and upon this occasion the Booteas again overran the country and carried off the reigning Rajah, Durjundernarain, and kept him in prison for several years. In the interim, the present Nazir Deo, Koghindernarain, applied to the English for assistance, and a treaty was agreed upon between them and him in the name of Durrendernarain, the son of the imprisoned Rajah, who had assumed the raj, by which he agreed to acknowledge subjection to the Company and pay them one-half of the revenues of the country on condition of being assisted in expelling the Booteas.

The English troops marched, expelled the Booteas, and settled the Government, and procured the release of the old Rajah Durjundernarain, who confirmed his son in the raj, being himself disgusted and his mind rendered gloomy by his long confinement, and the idea of having sunk from an independent sovereign to the state of a tributary rajah. He afterwards proceeded on a pilgrimage to Gyah, &c., and gave up his whole thoughts to religious matters. Shortly after, his eldest son, Durrendernarain, the reigning Rajah, died, and the management devolved upon the present Ranee, Commultessaram, and her agents on the part of the next son, the present Rajah. The old Rajah appeared to be insane, and consequently the principal power remained with the Ranee during his life, and continued in her hands as guardian of the minor Rajah under written instructions said to have been prepared by the old Rajah two days before his death. Upon this occasion, however, the Nazir Deo, though the nearest relation of the saj, was wholly excluded from any share in the management, and this laid the foundation of the subsequent disputes.

In the year 1783 the old Rajah Durrendernarain died, leaving his son, the present Rajah, still an infant under the guardianship of the Ranee. The Nazir Deo upon this exerted his influence, and by persuading the English Government that, under the management of a woman, the tribute (which had been settled by Mr. Purling, as appears on the Proceedings of 16th November 1773), would probably not be regularly paid, he got Mr. Goodlad, who was deputed to settle the affair, to enter into engagements with him for the current year's revenue. Upon this occasion he appears to have assumed the supreme powers, and to have gratified his revenge against the Ranee and her party by every degree of disrespect, assuming the whole sovereign authority and styling his son Naib Rajah. This produced complaints to the English Government, who at length sent a military force for the protection of the Ranee and young Rajah, and upon due investigation deprived the Nazir Deo of the management, and gave it to the Ranee and her principal agent, Surbunnund Gossain, confirming the young Rajah in the Government.

This decision of course still more exasperated the Nazir Deo, who, after various attempts to regain his power, at length grew desperate and raised a body of men with whom he seized the persons of the Rajah and Ranee, carrying them from the palace and keeping them confined at his house in Bulrampoor.

The consequence of this audacious act was, that a regular force was sent by Government against him, which, after an action in which several were killed, released the Rajah and Ranee and compelled the Nazir Deo to retire.

The mutual and ill-understood complaints and claims of both parties induced Government to depute two Civil Servants to investigate and report thereon, and upon their offer of pardon the Nazir Deo came in and a full investigation took place, and upon their report the Commissioner was directed to propose the best mode of reconciling their jarring interests and claims, which may be stated as follows :—

The Nazir Deo claims—

1*st.*—The continuance of his official situation of Nazir Deo, with all its rights and powers, of which he was dispossessed in 1785.

2*nd.*—The possession of 9 annas of the country.

3*rd.*—The possession of chucklahs* Bodah, Patgong and Poombhang.

* These chucklahs were held in the name of the Nazir Deo as a *zemindary*; they paid revenue to the Soubah of Bengal, and the Rajah being an independent prince, to avoid appearing as a tributary, made use of the name of his officer.

4th.—The right to dispose of the succession to the Raj as he thinks proper, under the precedent established by Sauntonarain, and in several instances since practised by subsequent Nazir Deos.

The Commissioner recommended that he should be confirmed in the office of Nazir Deo. That he should not be put in possession of the lands, but be guaranteed on the payment of the surplus revenue arising from 9 annas share after paying the charges, and *this* proportion of the tribute* assessed thereon, and this sum not to be subject to future diminution; that he should be allowed possession of the lands two coss around Bulrampoor, his house. That his claims to the chucklahs of Bodah, &c., be rejected, not being established; and that Government leaves his 4th claim undecided.

The Commissioner was directed to propose the above adjustment to the parties, which he did, 17th May 1791, and submitted their mutual objections with his opinion that it was impossible to propose any plan that would be satisfactory to both. The objections are as follows :—

The Rajah insists on his right to dismiss the Nazir Deo for his rebellious acts, and states that he has not only forfeited thereby all claim to Behar, but that he ought to be brought to condign punishment. That exclusive of this, the office is become a sinecure since the treaty with the Company, as the country is now protected by their troops, and the funds appropriated for paying the military formerly are now paid to the Company. That the lands having been in the possession of the Nazir Deo before was only for the purpose of enabling him to defray the military charges which are now otherwise appropriated. That the Nazir Deo is only a subordinate officer of Government, and as such liable to dismissal, and though he admits that certain ceremonies were indispensible to be performed by the Nazir Deo on the installation of a Rajah, yet he deems it absurd to suppose any subordinate officer could refuse to perform such ceremonies; the claim to this privilege, he asserts, has only arisen from the overgrown power of Sauntonarain, upheld by the official influence of subsequent Nazir Deos against the weakness of the Rajahs, and by no means an original principle of the constitution of the Government.

The Nazir Deo continues to assert his former claims.

The Commissioner states that it is evident that the Nazir Deos have, in many instances, exerted a power inconsistent with the relative situation of sovereign and subject, and that this assumption had its origin in the uncontroulable power and influence of Sauntonarain. That the continuance of such pretensions appears inadmissible, as it would in fact transfer the adminis-

* Vide letter, 15th March 1795.

tration from the Rajah to the Nazir Deos. He thinks, therefore, that the powers and duties of the latter ought to be defined, and that the proposition of paying him the surplus share of the revenues is as much as he has any right to expect.

In this state the subject was left, 13th April 1798; but it was again revived by a fresh application from the present Commissioner, stating the probability of further disturbances unless the questions are brought to a decision. He was directed to call upon the parties to declare if they had anything further to state. This he did, and he has now transmitted their replies, which contain nothing new on the subject, except a claim of the Nazir Deo to be reimbursed the expense incurred in consequence of the plunder of his property at the time of the release of the Rajah and Ranee from Bulrampoor.

Articles of Treaty between the Hon'ble English East India Company and Durrendernarain, Rajah of Cooch Behar.

Durrendernarain, Rajah of Cooch Behar, having represented to the Hon'ble the President and Council of Calcutta, the present distressed state of the country owing to its being harrassed by the neighbouring independent Rajahs, who are in league to depose him, the Hon'ble the President and Council, from a love of justice and desire of assisting the distressed, have agreed to send a force, consisting of four companies of sepoys and a field piece, for the protection of the said Rajah and his country against his enemies, and the following conditions are mutually agreed on :—

First.—That the said Rajah will immediately pay into the hands of the Collector of Rungpoor 50,000 rupees to defray the expenses of the force sent to assist him.

Second.—That if more than 50,000 rupees are expended, the Rajah will make it good to the Hon'ble the English East India Company, but in case any part of it remains unexpended, that it be delivered back.

Third.—That the Rajah will acknowledge subjection to the English East India Company upon his country being cleared of his enemies, and will allow the Cooch Behar country to be annexed to the province of Bengal.

Fourth.—That the Rajah further agrees to make over to the English East India Company one-half of the annual revenues of Cooch Behar for ever.

Fifth.—That the other moiety shall remain to the Rajah and his heirs for ever, provided he is firm in his allegiance to the Hon'ble United East India Company.

Sixth.—That in order to ascertain the value of the Cooch Behar country, the Rajah will deliver a fair hustabood of his district into the hands of such

persons as the Hon'ble the President and Council of Calcutta shall think proper to depute for that purpose, upon which valuation the annual malguzarry which the Rajah is to pay shall be established.

Seventh.—That the amount of the malguzarry settled by such persons as the Hon'ble the East India Company shall depute shall be perpetual.

Eighth.—That the Hon'ble East India Company shall always assist the said Rajah with a force when he has occasion for it for the defence of the country, the Rajah bearing the expense.

Ninth.—That this treaty shall remain in force for the space of two years, or till such time as advices may be received from the Court of Directors empowering the President and Council to ratify the same for ever.

This treaty signed, sealed and concluded by the Hon'ble the President, and Council at Fort William the_____day of_____1792, on the one part and by Durrendernarain at_____the_____on the other part.

APPENDIX C.

Memorandum of Proceedings regarding Assam, about 1792.

The Rajah of Assam having complained to this Government of the Dringh Rajah and of some sepoys and burkundazes, natives of Bengal, who assisted the latter Rajah to recover possession of his country, the Governor General advised, as well from motives of humanity as from a wish to be better informed of the interior state of Assam, its commerce, &c., to send an active and prudent officer with six companies of sepoys to Gualparah, but to defer giving him detailed instructions until he should transmit every information that he could obtain when near the scene that related to the objects of his future operations.

In consequence of the adoption of this proposition by the Board, Captain Welsh, the officer selected for this service, proceeded to Gualparah where he arrived on the 8th November 1792, with three companies of sepoys. At this place he was met by the nominal Rajah of Dringh (Minister to the Assam Rajah), who was very urgent with Captain Welsh to march to the relief of his master, who at this time was closely pressed by Kissnarain the real Rajah of Dringh and the Bengal burkundazes. It appears to have been the intention of Captain Welsh to have proceeded with all possible expedition, as soon as the other part of the detachment joined, to Gowhatty, the town in which the Assam Rajah was besieged, where he intended to hear the representations of all parties, and for this purpose took with him a vakeel of Rajah Kissnarain; but on his march he was met by the Rajah of Assam, who had been surprised by a Gosain, commonly called Burje Rajah, and obliged

to fly from Gowhatty. Notwithstanding this unforeseen flight of the person at whose requisition the detachment was sent, Captain Welsh determined to proceed to Gowhatty in order to reinstate the Rajah.

At the first interview Captain Welsh had with Surjee Deo, the Assam Rajah, it appeared very plainly that his views in soliciting aid from our Government were not confined to get rid of the Bengal burkundazes, but that he expected or wished to be assisted by our troops against all enemies, who, by his own account, were numerous, and in this hope he was encouraged by Captain Welsh. Gowhatty was taken possession of by our troops on the 21st November 1792, Surjee Deo's enemies being easily dispersed. From this place Captain Welsh addressed a letter to the Jemadars Commanding the burkundazes, as also to Kissnarain, directing them to retire into Bengal, with threats of imprisoning the families of the Bengalees in the event of disobedience to his order. The answers were evasive.

On the 26th of November 1792, the Governor General sent some general instructions to Captain Welsh, leaving him, however, a discretion to adopt the most eligible means for executing the same.* These instructions are grounded on the supposition that the Dringh Rajah was entirely under the control of a body of the burkundazes whom he invited to assist him against the Rajah of Assam, and that these troops constituted the principal strength of the Dringh Rajah's army. On these grounds, and to avoid bloodshed, his Lordship advises that the disturbances should, if possible, be settled by mediation with the Rajah of Dringh and the chiefs of the burkundazes. But the safety of the Assam Rajah is recommended as the primary object, and Captain Welsh is directed to use force should conciliatory measures prove fruitless. His Lordship declines giving any detailed instructions for want of sufficient local knowledge and information of the country.

A short time after the Rajah had joined our detachment, Captain Welsh discovered him to be a very weak man on whom no dependance could be placed, he being generally intoxicated with opium, and when sober totally incapable of all business, which was transacted by his Ministers. These men Captain Welsh describes as devoid of honesty, inimical to their master, injuriously rapacious to the country, and, in short, more destructive to the Rajah's interests than his avowed enemies. To one of these Ministers Captain Welsh expressed a wish that Kissnarain should be restored to the Raj of Dringh which had been possessed by his father who had forfeited it, together with his life, for some crime, because it appeared that Kissnarain had a considerable force independent of the Bengal burkundazes against whom solely he, Captain Welsh, was instructed to act. Captain Welsh also hinted at the necessity of a large force in the event of the Assam Rajah persisting to continue at enmity with Kissnarain, and the necessity of the Rajah's

reimbursing the Company for the additional expense they would incur on that account. To all these suggestions, evasive answers were returned by this Minister as well as by others who were afterwards deputed by the Rajah to confer with Captain Welsh on the state of the country. On considering the reputed strength of Kissnarain's forces, and the necessity of securing the command of the river, Captain Welsh recommends that one battalion, in addition to the force he commanded, should be sent to join him, and another be detached to Bissnee to move either to Dringh or Gowhatty, as the service might require also two six-pounders with draught and carriage cattle for the whole detachment.

Lord Cornwallis, in reply to Captain Welsh's opinions and statements, observes that it is not consistent with the line of conduct which has been prescribed for the Company to attempt the conquest of a country from which we have received no injury; nor is it even the wish of this Government to acquire an influence in the internal management of the affairs of Assam. That it is therefore particularly necessary that our temporary influence should be confined to the objects which were originally expected from the detachment, *viz.*, to drive the Bengal banditti out of the country of Assam and to endeavour to establish, by Captain Welsh's presence and countenance, the Rajah in the exercise of his lawful authority. The first object Lord Cornwallis deemed practicable, but the last difficult on account of the profligacy of the Ministers and the Rajah's imbecility; he therefore advises Captain Welsh to act with caution, to secure the safety of the detachment and to avoid taking any measures that might commit Government further in the business than was compatible with their intentions and the general rules of their policy. His Lordship recommends, should circumstances admit of the explanation, that the Rajah and his Ministers should be informed of the above sentiments in general terms, and that it was required, as a preliminary to Captain Welsh's taking any further concern about them, that the Dringh Rajah shall be restored to the quiet possession of the rights of his ancestors, on the condition, however, of his assisting in re-establishing the Assam Rajah's authority over the other parts of his dominions. On the part of the Dringh Rajah, Captain Welsh is instructed to assure him that should he accede to the above terms, Government will never act against him should the Assam Rajah hereafter disturb him in the possession of the ancient rights of his family.

Now Captain Welsh finding himself only amused by Kissnarain and the jemadars of the burkundazes came to the resolution of attacking them, which he effected with great conduct and drove the Rajah with his banditti into Bhootan. Thus the first object of the expedition, namely, driving the Bengal burkundazes out of Assam, was effected. But it appeared impracticable to Captain Welsh to accomplish the second, to re-establish the Rajah in the

exercise of his lawful authority without interfering in the internal management of the country. First, because the Rajah had lost all influence from his imbecility; second, because his Ministers were traitors and universally detested.

On these accounts the most enlightened of the inhabitants at Gowhatty declared it to be their opinion that until the Rajah was in some degree under Captain Welsh's management, he would never be able to assert his own rights.

In conformity with Lord Cornwallis' instructions, Captain Welsh insisted on and obtained the re-instatement of Kissnarain in his ancient rights, of which he informed the said Kissnarain, with assurances from Government similar to those above-mentioned as forming part of Lord Cornwallis' orders; on this head Captain Welsh soon after this discovered that the Rajah, whom he had hitherto regarded as weak only, was a monster of cruelty, and that his Ministers had endeavored to prevent all communication between him and the said Rajah. In consequence of these discoveries, Captain Welsh thought proper to confine two of the Ministers and to acquaint the Rajah Surjee Deo that whilst he continued to countenance acts of oppression and cruelty, and employed such infamous people (meaning the Rajah's Ministers) to manage the country, he, Captain Welsh, could give him no protection. In conclusion, he required the dismission of the Rajah's Ministers. Captain Welsh, however, gives it as his opinion to Lord Cornwallis, that should the Rajah even assent to this dismission, still it would be absolutely necessary to keep the Burra Burwa or Prime Minister in confinement, or otherwise the inhabitants, who dread his vengeance, when the detachment leaves Assam will never think their lives safe. For these and other reasons, Captain Welsh thought proper to publish a manifesto, informing the inhabitants of the dismission of the Ministers, stating the oppressions they had for a long while been subject to, assuring them of future protection, and requesting them to attend the durbars with all such complaints as they might have to prefer. Captain Welsh also addressed a circular letter to the different Rajahs and Chiefs of Assam, inviting them to a conference at Gowhatty in order to fix on some plan of government that might be productive of public good. Captain Welsh observes to Lord Cornwallis that though the measures he has adopted might appear short and even harsh, yet he trusted they were justifiable from the necessity he was under of depriving the worthless and cruel Ministers of the power to do harm, which could only be effected by abridging their liberty.

In reply to Captain Welsh's statement of these measures Lord Cornwallis says he does not see how Government can reconcile it to any principle of justice and humanity to establish by force the authority of the wretched Rajah and his worthless cruel Ministers in Assam. His Lordship recommends a convention

of the Rajahs and powerful Chiefs to concert with Captain Welsh the best means to prevent the country from being totally ruined. Lord Cornwallis adds that he cannot at present judge what stipulations it would be proper to make in favor of Surjee Deo, but at all events he must previously be required to dismiss his Ministers.

Before Captain Welsh however had received the above instuctions from His Lordship, he had discovered a particular act of cruelty, too shocking to relate, committed by the Rajah, who, in a conference with Captain Welsh, declared that if he was deprived of the power of killing and mutilating his subjects at pleasure he would resign his raj. He exonerated his Ministers from the odium of committing acts of cruelty and oppression, taking the same on himself, and concluded with positively refusing to dismiss them from his service. In consequence of this declaration, and in consideration of other circumstances, Captain Welsh restricted the number of the Rajah's attendants to one hundred, and informed him by letter that he had forbidden his subjects from having any intercourse or communication with him, until the Rajahs and Chiefs were assembled. Captain Welsh also, in a manifesto he addressed to the people of Assam, after stating the Rajah's misconduct, restricts all intercourse with him as above-mentioned.

Lord Cornwallis approved of these measures, and authorized Captain Welsh to assure the inhabitants that they shall not be abandoned to the Rajah's savage cruelty, and informs him (Welsh) of a reinforcement being ordered to Assam.

From this period, of course, Surjee Deo's power was annihilated, and all authority rested with Captain Welsh, who, conformably to Lord Cornwallis' instructions, has endeavoured to inspire the disaffected chiefs with confidence, and to bring them to a general meeting for the purposes already mentioned. In some degree he has succeeded, Kissnarain being reinstated in the raj of Dringh, and other chiefs of consequence giving hopes of coming in, the Gosains in particular. But as yet there has been no convention, consequently the country remains in the same distracted state it was in when we first interfered, with an exception of those parts where our troops are stationed.

Report relative to Assam in 1797, *made by the Persian Translator.*

In the year , in consequence of complaints preferred by the late Rajah of Assam that bodies of armed men styled Bengal burkundazes made it a practice to enter his country, commit depredations and excite commotins by fomenting rebellion among his subjects, who in various parts of his country had resisted and almost wholly superseded his anthority, and in the

hope that by restoring order to that distracted kingdom a valuable trade would be opened, and farther that by the deputation of an intelligent officer with a sufficient force to quell the prevailing disturbances, such information might be obtained respecting the produce of the country and the character of the natives as would enable Government to establish a beneficial system of commerce. Marquis Cornwallis thought it advisable to depute Captain Welsh with a battalion of sepoys to effect these objects. Though successful in suppressing the insurrections and restoring tranquility to the country, yet the cruel disposition of the reigning Rajah, his total ignorance of the arts of government, and his want of power to enforce subordination rendered abortive Captain Welsh's efforts to form a permanent settlement; and his recall was followed by a recurrence of the calamities which occasioned his deputation. After the death, however, of the Rajah and the succession of his nephew (a minor) the administration fell into the hands of the Burra Gobain, the principal Minister of State, who found means to conciliate or subject the immediate dependants of the kingdom to his authority; but the country still continued to be infested by parties of armed men who made annual incursions into it from the Company's districts, and against whom the Rajah's troops were utterly incapable of making head, principally from their ignorance of the use of fire-arms which, till Captain Welsh's deputation, appears to have been utterly unknown amongst them. Captain Welsh indeed, at the Rajah's desire, allowed a few sepoys to instruct some of his people in the use of the firelock, and he has since had about 500 men sufficiently well trained, with the assistance of his own rabble, to maintain his authority over his subjects and repel the attacks of his neighbouring tributaries. Since Captain Welsh's return the Rajah has repeatedly sent vakeels to this Government soliciting their aid to prevent the incursions of banditti from the Company's territories, but Government, not deeming it proper again to employ a military force, furnished them with arms which though, as the Rajah asserts, they have been of much use to him in maintaining his authority over his own subjects, have not enabled him to repel the invaders from the Company's territory.

These banditti are represented to be a set of vagabonds and dacoits who, having or choosing no means of subsistence but by plunder, rally under the standard of any one who has influence enough to collect them, and forming themselves into parties in the neighbourhood of Assam towards the close of the rains, take advantage of the fall of the waters to enter the country, where they oblige the Rajah or his officers to entertain them as sepoys upon their own terms by threatening to overrun the country if refused, and when entertained act wholly without subordination, and commit every species of outrage upon the defenceless inhabitants. By late accounts from Gwalpara it appears that there is at this moment a large body of men assembled under one

Kunnuck Sing, which only waits the fall of the Burrampooter to march into Assam. The enormities committed by these people are represented as shocking to humanity; rapine and murder are practiced without control; the country is deserted; wherever they appear cultivation is impeded, and commerce almost wholly at a stand.

As the desolation that prevails in Assam is thus wholly owing to the predatory incursions of subjects of the Company, the Rajah naturally seeks redress from their Government. If it be admitted that it is incumbent upon Government to put a stop to these enormities, it remains to provide the means of doing it more effectually than is practicable merely through the medium of the police establishment in Cooch Behar.

If care were taken to prevent armed men from assembling within the Company's territory, the evil would in a great measure be prevented. To this end a party of sepoys might (as was formerly the case at Jugigopah) be stationed at Gwalpara and employed to disperse any number of armed men that should be collecting in the district, and generally to assist as occasion may require in maintaining peace and good order; or should it be inconvenient to employ regular sepoys, sebundies might be raised for the purpose. The Commissioner at Cooch Behar at the same time might be directed to give the strongest injunctions to the thannadars within his jurisdiction to prevent the assembly of armed men, and disperse them whenever found assembled; and for that purpose to be authorized to call for the aid of the military force to be stationed at Gwalpara. The orders of Government upon this head should be made as public as possible, as many persons suppose that they are at liberty to commit depredations in Assam with impunity, and when it shall be universally known that Government is determined to put a stop to these practices, and the above precautionary measures shall have been adopted, in all probability no attempts will be made in opposition to their orders.

The vakeels lately arrived from Assam have directions from their master to solicit the recall of all the natives of Bengal now residing in Assam; numbers remain within the country under the pretence of commerce or taking service, and commit all sorts of oppression and violence. But to cause their return within the Company's territories, unless a force be sent in pursuit of them, does not appear practicable. The Assam Government further complains of the injury and injustice the inhabitants are subjected to from the liberty which has for some years past been allowed for all persons, European or native, to enter Assam and carry on their trade by violence, and propose that, as formerly, all merchants be required to carry on their commerce with the Assamese at the Candor chokey, commonly called the Bengal market.

The country of Assam is represented as abounding in the most valuable products, and it were therefore an object of public interest to take measures for restoring it to peace and quiet, with the view to promote the intercourse of commerce, now so much impeded by the depredations that the defenceless state of the inhabitants and the barbarism of its Government subject it to. By all accounts they are a very peaceable and an industrious people, and if not molested by these annual marauders, would in a short time bring the country into a flourishing state; whilst the trade, if laid under proper restrictions which should secure them from imposition and violence, would, in all probability, become very extensive and beneficial by creating a demand for articles, the produce of Europe and Bengal, and supplying this country and Europe with a valuable return in bullion and other products of the country.

APPENDIX D.

Lord Minto's Minute on Sanskrit Colleges in Tirhut and Nuddea.

FORT WILLIAM, 6TH MARCH 1811.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

It is a common remark that science and literature are in a progressive state of decay among the natives of India. From every enquiry which I have been enabled to make on this interesting subject, the remark appears to me but too well founded. The number of the learned is not only diminished, but the circle of learning, even among those who still devote themselves to it, appears to be considerably contracted. The abstract sciences are abandoned, polite literature neglected, and no branch of learning cultivated but what is connected with the peculiar religious doctrines of the people. The immediate consequence of this state of things is the disuse and even actual loss of many valuable books, and it is to be apprehended that, unless Government interpose with a fostering hand, the revival of letters may shortly become hopeless from a want of books or of persons capable of explaining them.

The principal cause of the present neglected state of literature in India is to be traced to the want of that encouragement which was formerly afforded to it by princes, chieftains and opulent individuals under the Native Government. Such encouragement must always operate as a strong incentive to study and literary exertions, but especially in India, where the learned professions have little, if any other support. The justness of these observations might be illustrated by a detailed consideration of the former,

and present state of science and literature at the three principal seats of Hindu learning, *viz.*,—Benares, Tirhoot and Nuddea. Such a review would bring before us the liberal patronage which was formerly bestowed, not only by princes and others in power and authority, but also by the zemíndars, on persons who had distinguished themselves by the successful cultivation of letters at those places. It would equally bring to our view the present neglected state of learning at those once celebrated places, and we should have to remark with regret that the cultivation of letters was now confined to the few surviving persons who had been patronized by the Native princes and others under the former Governments, or to such of the immediate descendants of those persons as had imbibed a love of sceince from their parents.

It is seriously to be lamented that a nation, particularly distinguished for its love and successful cultivation of letters in other parts of the empire, should have failed to extend its fostering care to the literature of the Hindus and to aid in opening to the learned in Europe the repositories of that literature.

It is not however the credit alone of the national character which is affected by the present neglected state of learning in the east. The ignorance of the natives in the different classes of society, arising from want of proper education, is generally acknowledged. This defect not only excludes them as individuals from the enjoyment of all those comforts and benefits which the cultivation of letters is naturally calculated to afford, but operating as it does throughout almost the whole mass of the population, tends materially to obstruct the measures adopted for their better government. Little doubt can be entertained that the prevalence of the crimes of perjury and forgery, so frequently noticed in the official reports, is in a great measure ascribable, both in the Mahomedans and Hindus, to the want of due instruction in the moral and religious tenets of their respective faith. It has been even suggested, and apparently not without foundation, that to this uncultivated state of the minds of the Natives is in a great degree to be ascribed the prevalence of those crimes which were recently so great a scourge to the country.

The latter offences against the peace and happiness of society have indeed for the present been materially checked by the vigilance and energy of the police, but it is probably only by the more general diffusion of knowledge among the great body of the people that the seeds of those evils can be effectually destroyed.

Sufficient, I presume, has been already said to show the fitness of incurring some additional expense with a view to the restoration of learning in the extensive provinces subject to the immediate government of this Presidency. I say "additional," because some expense is already incurred for

the maintenance of students at Nuddea, and a liberal sum is allowed for the support of a Hindu College on an extensive scale at Benares. In the former case, however, the expense allowed is quite insufficient for the ends proposed, and in the latter, the institution requires to be remodelled, in order to adopt it to the prevailing opinions and habits of the natives, and to correct the abuses which have crept into it. The following points appear particularly to demand attention in revising the rules established for the government of the College of Benares:—

First.—A prejudice appears to exist among the Hindus at that city against the office of professor, considered as an office or even as a service, and the most learned pundits have consequently invariably refused the situation, although the salary attached to it is liberal.

Second.—The feuds which have arisen among the members of the College, and which may be ascribed chiefly to the avarice and maliversation of the former Native Rector, entrusted with authority over the rest and with the payment of their allowances, have tended materially to defeat the objects of the institution.

Third.—That part of the plan which supposes the attendance of teachers and pupils in a public hall appears to be inconsistent with the usages of the Hindus. It has not only never taken effect, but has tended to prevent the professors from giving instruction in their own houses.

It is scarcely necessary to add that, in correcting the above defects in the constitution of the college at Benares, it will be proper to guard against the introduction of them at any other colleges which may be established.

After the foregoing remarks, it only remains to state the number of colleges which I would at present propose should be established in this country, with a view to the restoration of learning and the more general diffusion of knowledge among the great body of the people, and the principles on which, I conceive, after making all the enquries of which the subject is susceptible, that they should be managed.

I would accordingly recommend that, in addition to the college at Benares (to be subject of course to the reform already noticed), colleges be established at Nuddea and at Bhour near Bhowara in the district of Tirhoot.

The following are the principal rules which I would propose should be established for the superintendence and management of those institutions including that already existing at the city of Benares:—

First.—That the general superintendence of the colleges be vested at Benares in the Agent to the Governor General, the magistrate of the city and the collector of the province; at Nuddea in the senior member of the

Board of Revenue, and the magistrate and collector of that district; at Tirhoot in the senior judge of the provincial court for the division of Patna, and the magistrate and collector of that district, and that such other persons be associated with those officers as Government may at any time deem it advisable to appoint.

Second.—That pensions be granted under the appellation of nukd birt to distinguished teachers, on condition that they deliver instruction to pupils at their own houses.

Third.—That the pensions to the teachers be paid by the collectors under the general regulations respecting pensions.

Fourth.—That the teachers be nominated by the different committees subject to the approval or rejection of the Governor General in Council.

Fifth.—That a public library be attached to each of the colleges under charge of a learned native, with a small establishment of servants for the care of the manuscripts.

Sixth.—That the librarians be appointed and remunerated in the mode prescribed with respect to the teachers.

Seventh.—That ready access be afforded both to the teachers and the students, and likewise to strangers, under such restrictions as the public convenience may require, for the purpose of consulting, transcribing the books, or making extracts from them.

Eighth.—That the duty of procuring books, either by purchase or transcription, be entrusted to the librarian, under the control and orders of the committee.

Ninth.—That public disputation be held annually before the committee and in the presence of all other persons who may be desirous of attending, and that prizes, rewards, and literary honors be conferred on such of the students as shall have manifested the proficiency.

Other subsidiary rules may be requisite for the superintendence and management of the above-mentioned institutions, but the foregoing are sufficient to show the principles on which they should, in my judgment, be founded; and the statements annexed to this minute will exhibit the expense which will be required for their support on those principles.

It may possibly be apprehended that the gentlemen composing the committee will not always, nor even generally, be competent to pass judgment on the comparative merits of competitors at disputations, or to form a right opinion of the merits of candidates for pensions on the establishment of professors. Without denying that this may frequently be the case, it may be argued that the proposed objects are not the less likely to be attained. The

Native princes, who granted pensions to learned men under their protection, or conferred recompense on disputants maintaining a Thesis in their presence, were not generally better judges of the literary acquirements of those who became the objects of their bounty. They were, in one selection, governed by the reputation of the persons to whom they allotted pensions; in the other, by the opinion of learned men who assisted at the disputations held before them. The gentlemen of the proposed committees would equally possess the means of consulting competent persons in aid of their own judgment, and even, if they be sometimes misled, the institutions will still produce, though less completely, the benefits expected from them. The Native princes were themselves frequently deceived and misguided, but their liberality being sometimes properly directed, had the effect of promoting study.

It will be observed that, in the foregoing remarks, I have confined myself almost exclusively to the plan necessary to be adopted for the restoration of Hindu science and literature; considerations similar to those which have weighed with me in recommending that plan, would naturally induce me to propose similar arrangements for the revival of letters among our Mahomedan subjects, and the more general diffusion of knowledge among that part of the community. With the difference only in the population of Hindus and Mahomedans all the arguments which have been above stated in support of the arrangements proposed to be adopted for the propagation of knowledge among the former would equally apply to similar institutions for the benefit of the Mahomedans. A sentiment of deference, however, for the Hon'ble the Court of Directors restrains me from recommending any extension of the plan until their orders shall have been received on the subject generally of this minute. I deem it therefore sufficient to add on the present occasion, that Mahomedan colleges might be beneficially established at Bhaugulpore, Jaunpore, where Persian and Arabic literature formerly flourished, and at some place in the ceded and conquered provinces, and that it might be advisable to reform the Madrissa or Mahomedan collegiate institution at Calcutta, on the principles recommended with respect to the Hindu colleges. The attention of the Honorable Court will be of course drawn to this interesting subject in the next despatch from the Revenue Department.

(Sd.) MINTO,
„ G. HEWETT,
„ J. LUMSDEN,
„ H. COLEBROOKE.

Statement of charges for a College to be instituted in Tirhoot.

Salaries to professors to be granted under the designation of nukd birt or pension, on condition of teaching, and in full for support of themselves and pupils.

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 Pundits, at Rs. 100 each	2,400 0 0	
10 Pundits, at „ 60 „	7,200 0 0	
		9,600 0 0
Library.		
The Librarian to be one of the Pundits receiving salaries or pensions.		
Two writers (lek buks) as assistants to the Librarian at Rs. 7-8 each	180 0 0	
Two dufteries, at Rs. 3 each	72 0 0	
Paper, ink, &c., at „ 20	240 0 0	
Purchase or transcription of books in the year ...	1,000 0 0	
		1,492 0 0
Annual Prizes.		
To the best scholar and successful disputant ...	800 0 0	
Second best	400 0 0	
Third	200 0 0	
Fourth	100 0 0	
Other good scholars an honorary dress (a turban or other cloth of small value to each)	150 0 0	
		1,650 0 0
	S. Rs.	12,742 0 0

A substantial building to be built for the Library.

Statement of charges for a College to be instituted at Nuddea.

Salaries under the designation of pensions to professors, on condition of teaching, and in full for the support of themselves and pupils.

2 Pundits, at Rs. 100 each	2,400 0 0	
10 Do. at Rs. 60 each	7,200 0 0	
		9,600 0 0
Library.		
The Librarian to be one of the Pundits receiving pensions.		
Two writers (lek buks) as assistants, at Rs. 10 each	240 0 0	
Two dufteries, at Rs. 4 each	96 0 0	
Paper, ink, &c., at Rs. 20	240 0 0	
Purchase and copying of books	1,000 0 0	
		1,576 0 0

Annual Prizes.

For the best scholar	800 0 0		
For the next	400 0 0		
For the third	200 0 0		
For the fourth	100 0 0		
For other good scholars an honorary dress to each (consisting of a cloth of little value)	200 0 0		
		1,700	0 0
	S. Rs.	12,876	0 0
A substantial building to be erected for the reception of the Library.	(Sd.)	M.	

APPENDIX E.

Extract from Mr. Sutherland's Report to the Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort William, on the Hill people.

29. I avail myself of the publication of Captain Browne to extract from his official report the following account of the hill people, exhibiting their original form of government and the causes to which he ascribes their commission of those depredations and outrages which, from their magnitude, necessarily attracted the serious attention of Government :—

30. It has already been remarked in the first section, that these hills "are not a chain communicating with any others, but a cluster of small hills "surrounded by the flat countries, the districts skirting them are as follows, "beginning at Sacree Gully, 1st Gungapersad, 2nd Telliojurry, 3rd Colgong, "4th Bhaugulpore, 5th Curruckpore, 6th Beerbhoom, 7th Sultanbad, 8th "Ammar, 9th Rajmahal, 10th Jumnee, which ends at Sacree Gully and "completes their contour.

These hills are principally covered with wood, excepting where it "has been cleared away by the natives in order to build their villages "and cultivate janaira, plantains and yams, which, together with some "of the small grains mentioned in the account of the jungle tery, con- "stitute almost the whole of the productions of those hills; great numbers "of swine are also bred by the mountaineers. Every large hill which "has, or ever has had a village on it, bears a particular name; and over "every inhabited hill is a chief called a manjee, who is to every intent "a feudal lord, his riots called dungariahs are also his soldiery and pay "him implicit obedience, the compact between them is that in all plunder "one half goes to the manjee and his family, the other half is divided among "the dungariahs, and of their cultivation one sixteenth of all production "is paid to the manjee in kind, but these chiefs never have paid, nor in fact "ever could pay anything to Government.

"The inhabitants of these hills are not possessed of any caste, nor do "they come within any one of the classes of Hindoos. Of all things forbid- "den to the different tribes of Hindoos not one is forbidden to them, they "have barely an idea of a Supreme Being whom they worship under the "figure of a black stone, and the name of Ruxey Davey. The priest to this "deity is chosen upon the faith of supposed inspirations, under the power of "which, but generally in fact under that of spirituous liquors, he has been "agitated by convulsive motions much in the style of the Delphic Priestess, "who perhaps indeed was inspired by the same means. On his death another "is chosen in the like manner, many curious circumstances might be related "of these savages, but that it would swell this sketch to an unreasonable "size vastly exceeding its importance. I shall therefore conclude this "description of them by remarking that they are of a short stature, strong "and active, and the arms they use are bows made of bamboos, and arrows "of a strong thick species of reed headed which iron, in different shapes, "but I think they are far from being dexterous in the use of them.

"It is about fifteen years since the hill people had any government "among themselves of a general nature, and from the period of its dissolu- "tion they have become dangerous and troublesome to the low country, "which they never were before; and their ravages have been the more "violent, as they were stimulated by hatred against the zemindars of the "low country for having cut off their chief by treachery. Formerly the "hills of each toppah were under one or more chief manjees, to whom the "manjees of all the separate hills were bound to show obedience; he was "bound by a machulka to the zemindars of the toppah, and had jageer "lands in the plain country granted for the support of himself and family "in a suitable manner. If any robbery happened he was obliged to trace "it and bring the thief to justice; all the chowkeys within the hills were "hill people, whose business was to prevent any bodies of people from the "inner hills passing through their ghauts towards the plain country; while "this mode prevailed, no robberies were committed, the hill people were "happy and quiet, and the low country people were safe from depredations. "Every year at the festival of the Dussarah, the head manjee of each toppah "brought the rest of the manjees with him to his zemindar and renewed "his oath of allegiance to Government, the other manjees renewed their's "to him, and each of them having received a turban, and being feasted "in customary manner, returned to their respective districts.

"But in time the zemindars falling into contempt with these hill "chiefs, they attempted to make themselves independent of them; the "former not having force to compel them to obedience, were obliged to have "recourse to treachery, and cut off several of them at a public feast, the

"other manjees and hill people left their respective ghauts within the hills "and commenced those devastations on the plain country which have "continued with little intermission ever since: the zemindary chowkeys, "however, lying between the hills and the cultivated parts of the country, "kept things within some bounds till the year 1769, when the famine swept "away numbers of their chowkeys and left the plain country entirely "exposed to the ravages of the mountaineers. When Captain Brooke came "into this quarter, the only information he could receive was from the "people of the low country, they conducted him against the hills which "were most troublesome, they were reduced and many of their inhabi- "tants compelled to settle in the low country; they even informed him "of the former chowkey's boundary in the low country, part of which he "re-established, but they never gave him the least information of there "having ever been any government among the hill people, further than that "of a manjee over each hill; they represented the hill people in general "terms as a set of robbers, who always had been and always would be at "open war with society in general.

"The licentiousness to which the hill people had arrived previous to "the employment of the corps of light infantry, rendered it also lately "necessary by some severity to impress them with a fear of our military "force in the first place; this has been done, but this is only a preparatory "step towards a solid settlement of them; the obedience shown by the "mountaineers for the three or four last years has been solely paid to our "military force, and not at all derived from any system of government or "any idea of connection with or dependence on the state, and the low "country people taking advantage of the barbarous, and at the same time "subjected state of the mountaineers, have oppressed them severely; but in "future I am led to believe their obedience will be voluntary and constant. "Their fear of our force will be supported by their belief of our justice, and "knowing that all the benefits they receive are in return for their peaceable "deportment, they will be very loth on any occasion to risk the loss of them "by misbehaviour."

31. The corps of light infantry noticed in the preceding extract was raised for the purposes specified in the year 1772, and placed under the command of Captain Brooke, and, I write on the authority of Captain Browne's publication, the measures adopted by the office to reduce the mountaineers appears to have been attended with partial success. He restored in part the ancient chowkey's boundary or line of police posts, supported by jageer land and established as a restraint against the incursions of the hill people.

32. In July 1774 Captain Browne succeeded Captain Brooke in his military and civil commands, but his attention for the first four years was solely occupied by the insurrection in the western part of the jungle tery. In 1778 he repaired with his battalion to the Rajmahal districts, amongst the mountaineers of which some disturbances had broken out; Captain Browne, after adopting measures for restoring tranquility, submitted to the Government the official report above noticed, which, as stated, contained a plan for the future internal government of the hills. The leading features of this appear concisely to be as follows :—

1*stly.*—The sirdars or chiefs of divisions to be restored to their authority and possessions held formerly by their predecessors, and to receive sunnunds from Government, themselves entering into engagements specifying the duties they were to perform.

2*ndly.*—Similar engagements to be taken from the inferior manjees binding them to their sirdar manjees for all the purposes specified in his sunnund.

3*rdly.*—All transactions with the hill people to be carried on through their sirdar manjees.

4*thly.*—Hauts to be established at proper places to forward the intercourse of the hill people with the low country.

5*thly.*—Annual oaths of allegiance to be renewed.

6*thly.*—The ancient line of police posts on the skirts of the hills, for the support of which large tracts of jageer land had been appropriated, to be completely re-established, and till these lands, which had become waste, could be brought into a sufficient state of cultivation, the expenses of supporting the police to be defrayed by Government.

7*thly.*—These police establishments to be put under thannadars, to be appointed to each toppah instead of the zemindars, and the thannadars again to be under the control of two suzawals having the superintendence of separate divisions, with whom should be stationed a sufficient number of bundwaries or interpreters.

33. Captain Browne further suggested that jageers of lands on the skirts of the hills should be given to the old invalid sepoys on condition of their settling there, whereby additional protection against the incursions of the mountainers would be afforded, and also that pecuniary allowances should be made to the sirdars of the four principle divisions of the hills bordering on the high road, on consideration of their furnishing people to protect the public dawk through their respective divisions. The expenses of this were estimated at the annual sum of Rs. 1,000.

34. On the 27th January 1778, the Supreme Government recorded its approbation of the foregoing plan, and authorized Captain Browne to adopt such measures as he might find necessary for carrying into execution his suggestion for the government of the hill people; and subsequently, on the 10th March, the same high authority sanctioned and approved the suggestions of Captain Browne for granting jageers to the invalid sepoys, and for the protection of the dawk. Captain Browne in part carried into effect his arrangement for establishing a line of police posts, and that for the protection of the public dawk which has subsisted to this day; and from his suggestion originated the general system of granting lands to the invalid sepoys which has only recently ceased to obtain. The transfer from the jurisdiction of the officer in question of those districts which are inhabited by the mountaineers, which shortly after took place, prevented him carrying into final execution the plan which, with considerable judgment he had suggested for the internal regulation of the hills. It was thus reserved for Mr. A. Clevland to introduce that system of government amongst this savage people which, without material deviations, obtained to this day.

35. Mr. Clevland succeeded Mr. Barton during the year 1779 as Collector of Bhaugulpore, an office which then included the general civil administration of the province. It is on the 13th March 1779 that in his correspondence he first alluded to the mountaineers of the district. In a letter addressed to the Supreme Government on that day, he reports that they were remarkably quiet, and on the 17th May, in submitting to the same authority sundry accounts, he notices the disbursement, under the orders of Government, to Captain Browne above quoted, of the sum of Rs. 838-7, in making presents and feasts to the several tribes of hill people, and adds that 29 chiefs of hills, who had never before submitted, had come down and taken the oath of allegiance to Government.

36. On the 17th November of the same year, Mr. Clevland, in submitting his general accounts to the Government, noticed that 609 rupees had been expended agreeable to the plan of Captain Browne, approved as already stated by Government, in re-establishing the chowkey boundary in toppahs Barcope and Bustunda, an expense which would continue for eight months, when the police people would support themselves from the produce of their jageers; and Mr. Clevland added, that all the chowkeys were re-establishing in the division of Mudhoobun Gurree, and Madjoah, the expense of which would be defrayed by the jageerdars Soojaun Sing and Roshum Bukhsh. In this Mr. Clevland took occasion to write—"I flatter myself I may now almost venture to "assure the Board, the regulations which have been already adopted, and "a few more which I shall take the liberty of proposing in a short time

"will put the government of the hills on such a footing as will effec-
"tually attach the inhabitants to our interest, and in the end reduce them
"from a dangerous cruel banditti to become useful members of the com-
"munity." The chowkey bundy here mentioned is the ghautwallee police already referred to. Regarding which enclosure No. 2 contains a detailed statement, and general information will be submitted in the course of this address.

37. On the 13th January 1780 Mr. Clevland addressed to Government a letter in which he reports the general success of the means which he had adopted to conciliate the hill people, and that he had completed a line of police posts around the hilly tract except towards the south, where the hills within his jurisdiction were bounded by those of pergunnahs Ammar and Sultanabad of the Moorshedabad division. Mr. Clevland added that good order and tranquility had been introduced everywhere except in that quarter; and in soliciting the sanction of the Government to his endeavours to conciliate and civilize the hill people, strongly urged (as in fact a suggestion of the hill people of Rajmahal) the necessity of the pergunnahs mentioned being transferred to his jurisdiction in order that the same system and one authority might prevail amongst the whole hill tribes.

38. Previous to the receipt of any answer to the letter just noticed, Mr. Clevland, having quitted Bhaugulpore for the purpose of conferring personally with the hill people, on the 21st April 1780, addressed to the Supreme Government a letter in which he made a favourable report of the peaceable disposition of the hill chiefs and their dependents who, he stated, complained that want often had compelled them to resort to depredation. In order to furnish means of subsistence for a certain time, and introduce gradual improvement and civilization amongst the class of people in question, Mr. Clevland submitted propositions to the effect following :—

1*stly*.—That a corps of archers should be embodied from the hill people to be placed under the authority of the collector and employed in the Bhaugulpore district only.

2*ndly*.—That each manjee or chief of a hill estimated at 400 should furnish one or more men to the corps as might be required.

3*rdly*.—That to every 50 of the corps a chief should be appointed; that the enemies of the Government should be considered the enemies of the hill people, and it should be the duty of the corps to reduce all refractory hill chiefs and ghautwals.

4*thly*.—That each chief of a division should receive the monthly pay of 5 rupees, each common man that of 3, and each chief supplying a

common man for the corps the monthly allowance of 2 rupees, subject to such regulations as might be thought necessary in case of misbehaviour.

The annual expense of these arrangements, including the cost of articles of dress to be furnished yearly, was estimated at 32,000 rupees. Mr. Clevland on this occasion again pressed the transfer of Ammar and Sultanabad.

39. The Supreme Government on the 23rd June 1780, in reply to Mr. Clevland's two letters last noticed, declined for the present transferring to the jurisdiction of Bhaugulpore the pergunnahs of Ammar, Sultanabad, and informed Mr. Clevland that the arrangement suggested in his latter letter was under consideration. The Government, however, observing that its expense was very considerable, desired that Mr. Clevland would report whether the preservation of tranquility and the carrying into effect every measure of security might not be left entirely to the hill people, to whom they would grant liberal allowances.

40. In pursuance of these orders, on the 1st July 1780, Mr. Clevland addressed a letter in reply; in this he submitted for the consideration of Government two propositions, the first of which was to grant handsome allowances only to the sirdar manjees of divisions and their deputies, the estimated monthly expense of which was as follows:—

26 Chiefs at Rs. 10 each	...	260	0	0
58 Deputies at Rs. 5 each	...	290	0	0
Total Rupees	...	550	0	0

The second was to pay monthly 3 rupees indiscriminately to the manjees of all the hills, estimated at 400 rupees.

Mr. Clevland signified his preference to the first plan, adding that on receiving the determination of Government for the adoption of either, he should assemble the chiefs and take from them penal engagements binding them to be answerable for the peace of their respective districts, and if the Government approved, would give them, in return, sunnunds specifying the particular sum to be paid the holder and the services to be rendered by him.

41. The Supreme Government approved of the first of the plans above-mentioned, and, in intimating the same to Mr. Clevland, directed that the allowances to the chiefs should be limited to the monthly sum of Rs. 550, and left it at his discretion to carry into effect his plan in the best manner he was able.

42. In pursuance of their instructions, Mr. Clevland convened the hill chiefs and deputies under his authority, and informed them of the

sanction of the Government to his granting them pecuniary allowances under the considerations specified. The chiefs of the northern divisions readily agreed to the arrangement, but those of the south declined on the ground of vicinity to the pergunnahs of Ammar and Sultanabad, the mountaineers of which evinced a most refractory disposition, and would not fail, in case of the arrangement taking place, to renew their devastations with increased vigor, for which they (the hill chiefs in the Bhaugulpore districts) could not be answerable. Mr. Clevland, in communicating the results of this conference in his letter of the 19th September 1780, strongly repeated his recommendation that the pergunnahs Ammar and Sultanabad should be transferred to his jurisdiction, and in consequence of the favorable view in which the Commander-in-Chief, in passsing up the country, had regarded his suggestion for raising a corps of hill archers, Mr. Clevland took occasion to press on the consideration of Government the adoption of that measure (as submitted in his letter already noticed of the 21st April), as one well calculated to bring into a speedy state of civilization the hill people, while at the same time it would create a corps available for general military purposes. In consideration of the letter just noticed, the Supreme Government directed the transfer of the pergunnahs Ammar and Sultanabad to the jurisdiction of Bhaugulpore, and authorized the arrangement for raising a hill corps, as submitted in Mr. Clevland's letter of the 21st April 1780. The resolutions of Government to this effect were communicated in a letter of the 19th December 1780.

43. It is not inapposite to observe in this place that the plan contained in Mr. Clevland's letter of the 21st April being thus sanctioned, an additional monthly allowance of Rs. 800, to be disbursed to hill manjees not entertained in the corps, became allowed. This, added to the sum of Rs. 550, the expense of the 1st proposition submitted in Mr. Clevland's letter of the 1st July and sanctioned as already stated, made the sum total of monthly allowances authorized to the hill chiefs Rs. 1350. It will be shown in the sequel how this was reduced to the present sum of 1301 rupees.

44. In obedience to the orders of the Government last noticed, Mr. Clevland raised a corps of hill archers to the number specified, *viz.*, 400; and on the 13th February 1781, in reporting the same to the Government, he observed the alacrity with which the hill people had proffered their services for the corps, and added his conviction that as long as the regulations which had been then introduced were properly observed, no cause of complaint against the hill people would arise. Mr. Clevland at the same time took occasion to notice that he had ascertained from a petition presented to him by the chiefs praying to be included in the general arrangement for the government of the hills, that the hills of Belputtah, a pergunnah of zillah

Beerbhoom, were inhabited. He therefore suggested either that that pergunnah should be annexed to the Bhaugulpore district, or, without such transfer, that the hill inhabitants of it should be included in the general arrangement introduced for the government of those of the district in question. In this letter Mr. Clevland further expressed his intention of submitting a full account of his proceedings and negotiations as soon as he could connect them together. The records of the collector, however, do not show that he ever performed this intention, nor can the reply of the Government to Mr. Clevland's letter last noticed be found; it appears, however, he was authorised, probably in October 1781, to extend his jurisdiction and authority to the hill people of Belputtah.

45. A year had scarcely elapsed from the first introduction of the benevolent arrangements suggested by Mr. Clevland for the government of the mountaineers, yet success, fully commensurate with their liberality, appears to have attended his measures. This is apparent from a letter which Mr. Clevland addressed on the 31st October to the Reveune Committee, then recently formed, to whom the Government had transferred the general control and authority formerly exercised by itself over the collector. This letter evinces the judicious projects which Mr. Clevland had in view for the improvement of the savage tribes of the hills and his energetic zeal in the cause. He writes that he had distributed a large quantity of waste lands amongst the hill people, free of all rent whatever, for a certain number of years, which he calculated would induce them to turn their thoughts to agriculture, and that he had offered rewards, though without success, to such as would learn manufactures. Mr. Clevland justly regarding the establishment of the corps of hill archers as that part of his general plan which had contributed most to his success, proposed (which was sanctioned) that it should be remodelled and increased on a scale involving the additional monthly expense of Rupees 1526.

48. During the period of time now referred to, some disturbances took place in the hills, which were quelled chiefly by the good conduct of the hill archers, of the merit of whose services Mr. Clevland was so sensible, that he submitted a proposition for their being armed and disciplined like the regular troops. This was sanctioned, and Lieutenant Shaw, already mentioned, at that time aide-de-camp to the Governor General, was subsequently sent up as adjutant to discipline the corps, which from this period assumed its present name of hill rangers; the conduct of this corps has already since justified the high opinion and confidence entertained towards it by Mr. Clevland, and has strongly demonstrated how judicious was its institution.

84. An immense expanse of forest covers the plains extending from the base of these hills. For several years many families of the industrious

tribe called Sonthur (Sonthals) have established themselves in these forests, and have been clearing and bringing into cultivation large tracts of lands; for some parts of which thus cleared disputes have arisen between the Rajah and hill people.

The former, in a petition preferred to me, alleged that he had established the villages of Sonthurs, and the disputed lands had been brought into cultivation on his part; when, about three or four years since, Dewa, the naib of the hills of Junee Hurneepar, and his brother Soorja, with the assistance of the Foujdar Beeka and the hill people, their dependents, appropriated by force the lands in question, that the Suzowal to whom he had applied to restrain the hill people had promised, in a letter produced, to settle the dispute on the spot, but had evaded so doing. The petition prayed that I would prevent the hill people from offering further obstruction to the zemindar in the enjoyment of his magoozurie lands. The two hill men mentioned alleged in reply that the disputed lands had been cultivated on their part by the Soubars whom they had settled thereon, and were not included in the zemindaree of Rajah Kadir Allie, but on the skirts of the hills, the property of the hill people collectively, amongst whom they had divided the collections received. They at the same time did not fail to present for my perusal, as establishing their right, copy of Mr. Sandford's proclamation noticed in the report (inclosure No. 3) on the dispute between the hill people and zemindars of Runjyala, &c., which in that case proved of no small service.

85. I purposely remained some time at Kurhureya in the vicinity of the disputed lands to make same enquiries in this case, the result of which showed that the Sonthurs had originally established themselves on those lands on the part of the zemindar, but from the intimidation and dread of Soorja and other hill people had been compelled to pay the usual rent to that person. The extremest credulity could never for an instant suppose that the whole hill population were interested in this dispute, or participated in the small sums received in the rent from the Sonthurs. In fact four or five hill manjees (divided amongst themselves) are the only persons who take any concern in the issue of the case. The principal contending party however is Soorja, whose son nominally, but really himself, the late Suzawal appointed to the Ghaut Koojbee in the vicinity of the disputed lands, and I am perfectly convinced that his pretension to the lands originated with Abdool Rusool Khan. This is insinuated in the Raja's petition, and directly asserted by his less scrupulous mooktars. The Rajah appears to have been influenced by some sentiments of forbearance towards the late Suzawal. I learnt at Dhomka that a peon of this person had brought a letter from the Rajah to his sister the zemindar of Belputta, requesting her not to prefer any complaint personally against Abdool Rusool Khan.

89. Tuppoh Surmee. This takes its name from a small village in pergunnah Hindooa. The few hill people of this division, which commences on the south of Sudur Pal can scarcely be said to inhabit hills, their villages being situated some on the plains under the hills, and some on eminences formed by the irregular surface of this part of the country. Within these latter years, very considerable tracts of the extensive forests which here existed have been brought into gradual cultivation by the industrious Sonthurs who emigrate from the Beerbhoom and Ramegurh districts, and even from the Nagpore territory. In consequence disputes have arisen between Jhubbun Singh, the zemindar of Hindooa and some of the hill manjees, particularly Bugaee manjees of Amra, a small hill detached from the general hilly tracts.

108. Having thus completed in order such details of local information regarding the several hill divisions as appeared to me necessary, I shall now proceed to offer a few general observations on the second point to which my enquiries were directed by the orders of Government of 11th August. Did the rarity of crime invariably demonstrate an efficient state of police, that in the hills must be pronounced excellent. But the unfrequent commission of offences by the hill people must be ascribed rather to their general peaceable character than to the activity or influence of any establishment within or without the hills. The very defective state of the police ghauts which, from their nature could never be very efficient, has been fully noticed; and when it is considered that, of 251 rupees fixed for the entertainment of ministerial officers on account of the hills, only 100 was avowedly intended, but in fact not duly appropriated for the support of five Mofussil thannahs, it may be safely said that no police establisbments properly so called have for a long period existed for the regulation of the hill people. A greater encomium cannot be bestowed on the mountaineers.

109. That the general measures introduced by Mr. Clevland have operated towards conciliating the hill people and the improvement of their condition is obvious. A long cessation from depredation and the general adoption of peaceful habits have greatly increased the cultivation on the hills, and with it the means of subsistence of the inhabitants; mutual confidence and extended intercourse are established between the hill people and lowlanders, and I am of opinion that a judicious attention bestowed by the magistrate for a few years, by extending his personal influence more generally amongst the hill population might justify (were it deemed expedient) the abolition of all legal distinction between them and the lowlanders.

110. To the provisions of regulation 7 of 1796, the defect of which I shall presently notice, I cannot ascribe any particular effect in conciliating and still less in promoting civilization amongst the hill people. With the favorable alterations noticed, I think they may still be characterized as the same rude and simple race, and as destitute of the arts of civilized society as they were forty years ago. They are still distinguished by their great veracity, but I am sorry to observe that in individual instances this virtue (generally the first victim on the shrine of civil improvement) has been obliterated by the accumulation of wealth and extended relations with the lowlanders.

111. It will have been seen that, for promoting their civilization, Mr. Clevland proposed to induce the hill people to desert their hills and settle on the plains, and as agriculture is the first art from which all others of civilized life emanate, the measure seems adapted for the end; but I concur with Mr. Fombelle in doubting its general practicability or certain tendency to promote the happiness of the people, and would not at present by any means recommend its adoption at the expense of declaring the pensions perpetual. Nor should it be omitted that an objection occurs against a general desertion of their hills by the mountaineers. Instead of an orderly and obedient population, the hills might become the resort and retreat of evil disposed persons, and the rude links by which the present hill population is connected being dissolved, these would be joined by many of the present hill inhabitants whom the salutary effects of good example would no longer detain from depredation.

114. The population of the hills, likewise greatly checked by the dreadful ravages of the small-pox, against which none of the hill people are protected by previous inoculation. This distinctive malady sometimes depopulates whole villages. It would be worthy the liberality of the British Government to attempt the introduction of vaccination amongst the rude race in question,—a measure which could not be obstructed by long established prejudice or the influence of interested individuals. A few hill people could be easily taught this simple art, and, supported by Government, might gradually disseminate its practice amongst their countrymen.

Mr. Glass, the Surgeon of Bhaugulpore, would, I am sure, with his usual humanity, gladly afford his assistance in promoting this plan, and no doubt amongst the relations of the sepoys of the hill rangers, to which corps his professional duties extend, some could be found willing to learn and introduce amongst their countrymen so great a blessing. 1330 Point 2nd. I feel no hesitation in expressing my conviction that between the estates of the zemindars and the outward hills

intervenes a space (denominated the damuni-koh or skirts of the hill) which is excluded from those estates, and on which no revenue has ever been assessed. I cannot assign a better reason for this opinion than that it appears to have been and to continue to be universally acknowledged, and to have been frequently acted on by Captain Browne, Mr. Clevland and his successors. In fact it does not appear to be contested by the zemindars. The following circumstances are confirmatory, 1st, the native officer entrusted with the management of the hills has always been demonstrated the suzawal of the hills and skirts of the same. 2nd, both Captain Browne and Mr. Clevland in some instances assigned waste lands under hills to hill people which, it is presumed, they would not have done had those lands been considered as belonging to the adjoining zemindars. 3rd, the sunnunds issued by the gentlemen mentioned to the different ghatwals, contain a clause authorizing them to assign land on the plains beneath the hills to such hill people as might wish to settle thereon,—a circumstance certainly implying the existence of land at the base of the hills distinct from the estate of the bordering zemindars. Against the opinion expressed, no argument can be urged that would not equally apply at least for the most part to the different ranges of hills, and country occupied by the hill people; and, if admissible, justify the relinquishment of the same to the zemindars who never have been at the smallest expense in the pacification of the hill people, though they most benefitted by the heavy disbursement made on that account by Government.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S MINUTE.

31. It appears to be evident that the hill country, as well as the damunikoh, or tract at the foot of the hills, was by the Mogul Government considered in the light of a conquered country, open to be disposed of in such manner as might be deemed most advisable. It will be seen accordingly, that part of the tract was assigned in jageer, and part on zemindary tenure, the Government of that time being apparently desirous of avoiding, if possible, any direct contact with the obnoxious race which occupied the hills.

32. The excesses to which the hill people were driven by the cruelty of the zemindars and others, to whom they had thus been abandoned, obliged the British Government to resume the whole tract and to bring it under its direct management. This was done long before the perpetual settlement, and before any declaration had taken place on the subject of zemindary rights, and was a measure in which all parties fully acquiesced as the only means of restoring the country to peace. The hill people thus become the direct ryots of Government, and all rights that

may at any previous time have attached to the zemindars or others over the hills and contiguous tracts of land occupied by the mountaineers, must be regarded as having ceased. It was the aim of Abdool Rusool, the late suzawal, during his whole life, to procure for himself a zemindary sunnund for the tract, which shows evidently the light in which he looked upon the hill people, and the power of disposing of the tenure which he conceived to be vested in the Government.

41. The Governor General in Council has no desire to deprive the the hill manjees and others of the benefit of their allowances, they tend to secure the good will of the leading men, and to give to the public authorities a very useful influence over the body of the people, which will be augmented if the pensions be distinctly understood to be held on the condition of police service and responsibility, the principal grounds on which they were originally assigned to the manjees.

48. Originally indeed the ghats seem to have been (as observed by Mr. Sutherland) established by the zemindars as barriers for the protection of their lowland estates against incursion from the hills, without, at the same time, undertaking the regulation of the ghats, which was accordingly done as a matter of course, and apparently with the acquiescence of all parties. Nevertheless it appears that some of the neighbouring zemindars were still allowed to retain their superiority over the ghatwals although the sunnunds of the latter were given by Government

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To the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Governor General, and Council of Revenue at Fort William.

Hon'ble Sir & Sirs,—I did myself the honor to address you under date the 31st March on the subject of Morar Sing's behaviour. Since which I have received a letter from the Provincial Council of Revenue at Moorshedabad in consequence of my application to them about him, extract of which I beg leave to enclose for your perusal.

Having for some days past been employed in receiving visits from the hill chiefs of the several pergunnahs under my authority, and having feasted them and given them the usual presents suitable to their rank, it is with singular pleasure I have the honor to acquaint the Board, that their behaviour, their proposals to me, and their ready compliance with some I made to them in return, have given me the greatest satisfaction, and I flatter myself will equally ensure your approbation.

These people in general are now become so sensible of the advantages to be derived from a firm attachment and submission to Government, that

many of them have not scrupled to declare they would for ever renounce all unlawful practices of robbery, murder and devastations if Government would point out and secure to them the means of subsistence, the want of which has frequently obliged them to commit acts they seem now to have some idea are not only improper but inhuman.

This naturally led me to a proposal which I have long had in meditation and is grounded on the following principles: The inhabitants of the hills have in fact no property. A mere subsistence is all they seem to require, to obtain which the means appear but as a secondary consideration. The first question that occurs, therefore, is whether it is for the interest of Government to supply them the means of subsistence for a certain time, or to suffer the inhabitants of the hills to commit devastations on the country as they have done for many years past. Certainly the former. For although the losses which Government has experienced in its reciepts of revenue on this account have in fact been trifling, owing to the rigid observance of the engagements entered into with the zemindars and farmers, yet the suffering of the low country inhabitants during the hill insurrections are not to be described. To make friends therefore with the hill chiefs is, with all due submission, an object worthy the attention of Government, and in the memory of the oldest inhabitants they never expressed themselves so earnestly for an accommodation as at present.

The disbursements, and of course the circulation of money, in the hills by Government appears to me the most likely bait to ensure the attachment of the chiefs, and at the same time nothing will be so conducive to the civilization of the inhabitants, as to employ a number of them in our service.

On these principles, I have taken the liberty to make the following proposals which the hill people have cheerfully agreed to, provided they meet with your approbation.

1. That each manjee or chief, estimated at about four hundred, shall furnish one or more men, as may be required, to be incorporated into a corps of archers.

2. That a chief shall be appointed to every fifty men, and shall be accountable for the good behaviour of their respective divisions in the corps.

3. That the corps for the present shall act immediately under the orders of the Collector of Boglipoor, and to be employed in his districts only.

4. That the enemies of Government are to be considered as enemies by the hill people and that it shall be expressly and particularly the duty of the corps to bring all refractory hill chiefs and ghautwals to terms or to expel them from their country and treat them as enemies wherever they may be found.

5. That each hill chief commanding a division in the corps shall have an allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem, the common people Rs. 3; and effectually to secure the manjees or chiefs of the several hills in a firm attachment to Government, each chief supplying a common man for the corps shall receive a monthly allowance of Rs. 2, subject however to such restrictions as may be thought necessary in case of misbehaviour.

6. That each man in the corps shall have 2 turbans, 2 cummerbunds 2 shirts, 2 pairs of jungheers and a purple jacket annually.

The two latter proposals I have not yet made, having informed the chiefs in general terms only that if the plan meets with your approbation they shall have no reason to complain of their allowances.

I now take the liberty of proposing that one man be immediately entertained from each hill, and a chief appointed by themselves, for the present, to every fifty men.

The expense at this rate will be nearly as follows, agreeable to the 5th and 6th articles of my proposals: —

8	Chiefs commanding divisions in the corps at 5 rupees ...	40
400	Common hill people at 3 rupees	1,200
400	Chiefs (not in the corps supplying the above) at 2 rupees ...	800
		2,040
		12
		24,480
16	Turbans &c., annually, agreeable to the 6th article, for the Chiefs in the corps at 10 rupees each	160
800	Do. for the common people at 6 rupees	4,800
	Total annual expense, Rupees ...	29,440

The cloth for jackets to be supplied from the Company's warehouse in Calcutta.

I confess gentlemen, the sum of Rupees 32,000 annually appears to be an enormous disbursement, where no apparent advantage in the Hon'ble Company's revenue is likely to be immediately derived from it. The object however will, I flatter myself, appear to you in a more extensive light, and when you consider the comforts you will in all human probability administer

to a race of people hitherto little better than savages, who will, in the course of time, become useful members to the community in the very heart of your dominions. These and the confidence which the inhabitants of the adjacent countries will have in their villages and hereditary possessions, no longer apprehensive of continual devastations and murders, will, I trust, be at least sufficient inducement for you to give my proposals a due consideration, and any alterations or exceptions which in your wisdom you may think fit to make, will, I have not the least doubt, be cheerfully subscribed to by the hill chiefs. The expense, however, as the inhabitants become civilized, may in a great measure be suspended. As they will no doubt find the same means of supporting themselves that people of the same class have done in other countries, by emigrations or a proper attention to the cultivation of their own lands.

I conclude this address with observing that, should the proposals I have made meet with your approbation, it appears more necessary than ever that the pergunnahs of Ammar and Sooltanabad should, agreeable to my representation of the 13th January, be put under my authority, particularly as Morar Sing has taken shelter in the latter, and I am fully persuaded none but hill people can have the smallest chance of apprehending him.

I am with the greatest respect,

SUCCARAGULLY,
21*st April* 1780.

A. CLEVLAND.

To the Hon'ble Warren Hastings, Esq., Governor General, and Council of Revenue, Fort William.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—In consequence of your approbation to my proposal of giving allowances to the hill chiefs of the toppahs and their deputies, leaving it to me to carry your plan into execution in the best manner I am able, and limiting the expense to Rs. 550 per month, as signified in your letter of the 22nd of August, I immediately summoned all the chiefs and deputies of the several districts under my authority, and informed them, that in consequence of the disposition they had for some time past shown to remain on good terms with their neighbours in the low country, and of the confidence they had placed in Government by giving themselves up to my protection and authority, you had been pleased to grant pensions to the chiefs and deputies as an encouragement for their future good behaviour, but that in consideration of this indulgence they were to bind themselves in the most forcible manner, under pain of the severest penalties and a suspension of their allowances, to be answerable for the good order and management of their respective districts.

To this the chiefs and deputies of the several toppahs to the northward readily assented, but those to the southward, whose hills lie contiguous to the pergunnahs of Ammar and Sooltanabad absolutely refused to accept any allowance on the terms prescribed, alleging as a reason, that they could not be answerable for the conduct of their neighbours; and as they had so often, since the commencement of my arrangements, given proofs of their refractory dispositions without expressing the smallest inclination to surrender themselves to Government, they would now become every day more and more incensed against my division, and would plunder and destroy the villages in it with redoubled fury. Their motives for and view in this, I understand, would be to compel the chiefs under my authority to resume their allegiance, which they might easily be induced to do, rather than become accountable for disturbances which it would not be in my power to assist them in preventing, and as they have an idea that, as long as any part of my division remains unsettled, chastisement would be either entirely suspended or more equally divided, whereas, if otherwise, the whole blame would inevitably fall upon them in case of disturbances.

I have already taken up so much of the hon'ble Board's attention with my representations respecting the necessity of annexing the pergunnahs of Ammar and Sooltanabad to my collectorship, that it is with the greatest reluctance I am once more induced to address you on the subject. But as I am convinced nothing but proper encouragement is wanting to bring the hill people in those two pergunnahs into the same peaceable state that I have with so much success brought those to in my own districts, and as I am also confirmed in my opinion that, even if similar arrangements take place in both divisions, there will still be disturbances and confusion near the boundaries of them, I should be wanting in my duty did I not humbly entreat the hon'ble Board to take these circumstances into their consideration.

I have been further induced to say thus much on the subject in consequence of the very flattering approbation my plans in general had the honor to meet with from Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B., in several conversations I had with him on his way, both up and down the country, and as my proposal for raising a corps of archers, as represented in my address of the 21st April, was particularly approved by him, I take the liberty of recalling your attention to this circumstance also, being persuaded of the good effects it will have in bringing the hill inhabitants to a speedy state of civilization. Add to which the great service they may be of in military operations at a future period.

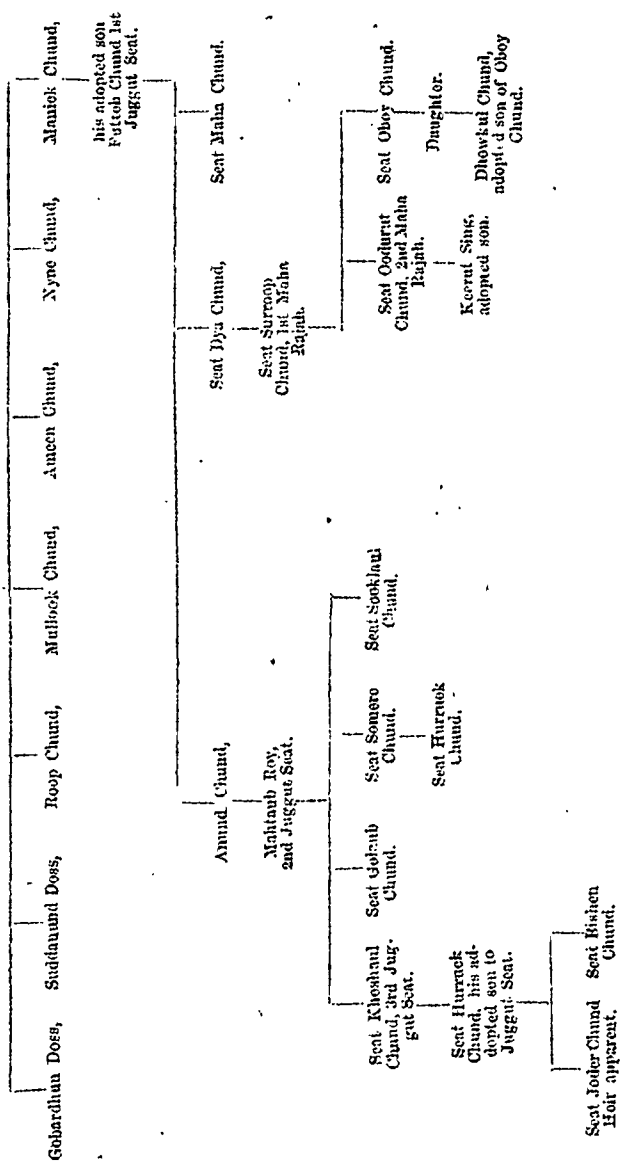
I am, with the greatest respect, &c.,

A. CLEVLAND.

MONGHYR,
19th *September* 1780.

APPENDIX F.

Memorandum respecting the family of Juggut Seat, Hurruck Chund.



This family derives its descent from Heera Nund Sah, a banker, who lived in the 17th century. He had seven sons, Gobardhun Doss, Suddanund Doss, Roop Chund, Mullook Chund, Ameen Chund, Nyne Chund and Manick Chund, who severally established banking houses in different quarters. But Manick Chund rose to most eminence. He established a banking house in Bengal and was honored by the Emperor Aurungzebe with the title of Seat. Having no children, Seat Manick Chund adopted his nephew (sister's

son) Futteh Chund, an eminent banker at Moorshedabad, whose services to the Emperor Ferokhsere, previously to his accession to the throne of Delhi, at the time when that monarch marched from Patna to Delhi against the Emperor Mouzoo Deen, by aiding him with extensive pecuniary loans were rewarded by the Emperor with the title of "*Juggut Seat*," a title which had never before been conferred on any subject, and that honor has continued to be enjoyed by the eldest branch of his posterity to the present time.

The Emperor Ferokhsere also presented Futteh Chund with a fine emerald seal with his title of "*Juggut Seat*" engraved on it, desiring that he would preserve and transmit the seal to his posterity. The seal is said to be now in the possession of Juggut Seat Hurruck Chund. The Emperor manifested other marks of favor to Futteh Chund. At his intercession the Emperor pardoned the Nabob Jaffier Khan, the Soubahdar of Bengal, who had incurred the royal displeasure, and restored that officer to his confidence and regard. The royal favor towards Futteh Chund's family appears to have been hereditary. From that period the Kings of Delhi never sent a khillut to the Nazim of Bengal without conferring the same distinction on Juggut Seat.

Futteh Chund, 1st Juggut Seat, had two sons, Anund Chund and Dya Chund. Anund Chund died during his father's lifetime, leaving an only son, Mahtaub Roy, 2nd Juggut Seat, who was killed by the Nabob Cossim Ally Khan, and was succeeded by his son Koshaul Chund, who having no issue adopted the son of his brother Seat Somere Chund, who is Hurruck Chund, the present Juggut Seat, and who sends a vakeel to Government. Hurruck Chund has two sons, the eldest of whom is Inder Chund, on whom a khillut has lately been conferred on occasion of his marriage.

From Dyal Chund, 2nd son of the 1st Juggut Seat, was descended Surroop Chund, who obtained from Mohaulut Jung, the Nazim of Bengal, the title of *Maha Rajah*, and being killed by Cossim Ali Khan was succeeded in his title by his eldest son, Seat Oodwut Chund, who, dying without issue, his younger brother Oboy Chund claims the title of Maha Rajah, which is now dormant. Seat Oboy Chund having no male issue has adopted his grandson, Dhowkul Chund, a descendant in the female line, and in favor of whom he solicits the title of *Seat*, in expectation of being raised himself to the superior rank of *Maha Rajah*.

On the other hand, Maha Rajah Oodwut Chund having adopted Keerut Sing as his son, the Maha Rajah's widow claims the title of Maha Rajah in favor of her adopted son.

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on 30 January, 2020